Opinion polls and falling output figures deliver double blow to Tory strategists

Labour takes a five-point lead

was shaken by new gloomy

manufacturing output fig-ures showing a bigger than expected fall in January. The

Central Statistical Office fig-

nies fuelled City fears that the recession, which is already

the longest for 60 years, could

continue for at least the

Manufacturing industry.

which fell 0.4 per cent in

December, suffered a further

resent quarter.

By ROBIN OAKLEY AND NICHOLAS WOOD

a five-point lead over the Conservatives, according to the two latest opinion polls published last night against the background of renewed economic gloom.

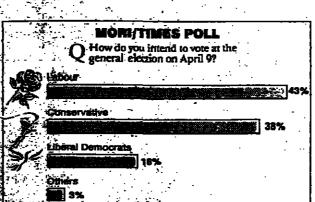
A Mori survey for The Times, conducted on Monday, gives Labour 43 per cent support. Conservatives 38 per cent, Liberal Democrats 16 per cent and others 3 per cent. The figures increase Labour's lead by two points when compared with last week's Mori survey for The Times. Support for the Conservatives has remained the same, with backing for "oth-

ers" dwindling. If the findings were repeated on a uniform swing in the general election, they would give Labour an overall major-

LABOUR has moved into seats. However, the result would be unlikely to see Labour through a full

parliament.
An ICM poll to be published in The Guardian to-day, measured support for the three main parties at exactly the same level as the Mori findings. The ICM poll was also conducted on Monday.

The Mon and ICM results are the kind of shock which Conscivative strategists have been dreading. City responses to last week's rumours that an opinion poll had given Labour a similar lead suggest that there will be a strong adverse reaction when markets open today. That could start a victous circle for the Tories: pressure on the pound would end the Chancellor's interest rates before the election and could threaten an



age Conservative support

is the highest level of support the party has enjoyed since early January, before the Conservatives launched air assault on the Opposition's tax policies. The 5 per cent poll lead is also the biggest

The Mori findings emerged as the Tory campaign

Party leaders hit the hustings and

education tops the election agenda. Full analysis...6-11

Anatole Kaletsky. ending article. L&T section

0.7 per cent drop in output in January. Overall industrial production fell 1.3 per cent, reflecting a big drop in energy output, which last year tended to flatter the output

The three-month comparison, preferred by the Treaaury, was almost as gloomy. This showed an 0.7 per cent cent fall in industrial output the same period a year ago. The three-month comparison also showed a 0.9 per cent drop in manufacturing output over the past three months and 3.3 per cent reduction on the same period a

John Major sought to steady Tory nerves by argu-ing that the January production snapshot was already out of date and that the country was ready for recovery once the general election was over. He emphasised that other figures, particularly inflation, were encouraging. "The outhistorical and they are mirrored in most of the other industrial countries of the world," the prime minister said during a campaign trip in Lincolnshire. "We are now getting ourselves into a position where we can lift out of

recession and that is what

Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, said the figures were 'appalling". Speaking during a visit to Bristol, he said: They are much worse than City analysts expected and worse than we expected. They demonstrate the longest re-cession since the 1930s is also now turning into one of the

deepest since the 1930s." Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, said: "I think this country now faces the very dangerous prospect of sliding from recession into

slump."
The Mori figures indicate that there could be sharp fluctuations in party support in a closely contested election. A Harris poll for yesterday's Daily Express gave the Conservatives a three-point lead, equalling their best this year. The margin of error in these polls is 3 per cent in any party's share of the vote.

Ministers argued when Con-Continued on page 18, col 6

Business

group

goes for

Kinnock

By ROBIN OAKLEY

POLITICAL EDITOR

A GROUP of businessmen

headed by the Labour peer Lord Hollick writes to The

Times today to insist that the

country "desperately needs"

Labour's commitment to in-

dustry and to long-term

Their letter is in response to

group of company chair-

men and chief executives who wrote to The Times vesterday

urging support for the Con-servatives in the election.

The group of Labour sup-

porters today includes Lord Hollick, Paul Hamlyn, Jarvis

Astaire, Michael Montague

and Lord Gregson. They wel-

come Labour's shadow bud-

vative", setting the framework in which a real

recovery from recession could

begin. They applaud the "re-

distribution of income from

the top 10 per cent to every-one else" as "a welcome net

boost to overall demand in

Continued on page 18, col 1

An Oxfam

Letters, page 15

the economy".



TRUE BLUE **SEES RED**



is ready to fight her own party for her jailed son

> **SHADES OF GREY**



Philip Howard attacks our cold, bossy, patronising treatment of the aged Page 14

OLD RUSSIA RESCUE ACT



The Duchess of Abercorn has a mission to help St Petersburg Life & Times page 4

£3bn merger to make Midland biggest bank

By Neil Bennett, banking correspondent

MIDLAND Bank is planning a £3 billion merger with the Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation in a move which will create the largest bank in Britain and one of the world's most powerful financial institutions.

The two banks surprised the City yesterday by announcing that they had resumed merger talks more than a year after they were called off. Midland's shares soared by 76p to 329p. The paring a bid for Midland. pected to value it at 350p-4000 a share. The Midland's

Britons told to quit Libya

British citizens in Libya were advised by the Foreign Office to leave the country immediately after the UN security council was asked to sever air links and halt arms sales to Colonel Gadaffi. Britain, France and the United States discussed Libya's refusal to extradite two Libyans accused of the Pan Am bombing over Lockerbie in

Poll boost

South Africa's white voters turned out in large num-bers, boosting President de Klerk's hopes of winning the "yes" vote he seeks in the referendum on his constitutional .. Page 12

Show gamble The latest theatrical gamble of Cameron Mackintosh, Moby Dick, was

Sailing shock Relatives who launched their own inquiry into the loss of the trawler, Pescado, with six lives a year ago have discovered the ship sailed without a safety

2.23 %

.... Page 18

certificate Page 5 INDEX Births, marriages. deaths... Crossword Obimaries LIFE & TIMES Concise Crossword

Employers seeking chief ex-ecutives, managers and other senior staff are advertising tomorrow in 13 pages of appointments in the Life &

TV & radio.



four million customers are unlikely to be affected by the move because the Hongkong bank has no plans to alter its branch network, and there redundancies. Midland's customers can aiready use their cash machine cards in Hongkong bank's branches in Asia, the Middle East and

The merger would relieve Midland, once the largest bank in the world, from more than a decade of problems. These stemmed from its acquisition of Crocker National Bank in California in 1980. The bank reported heavy es in 1987 and 1989 or its lending to the Third World, and was forced to cut its dividend in half last year when profits sank to only £11

The deal needs to be approved by the Bank of Engiand and may face a Mono-polies and Mergers Com-mission enquiry or an in-vestigation by the European Commission. In 1981, the commission blocked a bid by the Hongkong bank for the Royal Bank of Scotland since it opposed the foreign ownership of a key British bank.

Since then, however, the Hongkong bank has moved its registered base to Britain and will shift its headquarters to London if the deal goes

The combined group will have the widest spread of international operations of any bank worldwide, and control assets worth £145 billion. Barclays, Britain's largest bank, currently has assets of £138 billion, although both are dwarfed by Dai-Ichi Kangyo in Japan, the world's largest bank, with assets of £270 billion.

The deal will also be watched closely by the Chinese government, since the Hongkong bank is vital to the local economy, and will re-main so after the Chinese takeover of the colony in 1997. The bank said it was keeping the Peking authorities informed of its plans.

£3bn merger, page 19 Oriental marriage, page 23



after presenting them with shamrocks on St Patrick's Day, a ceremony dating from 1900, the year of her birth

Old party stage farmyard farce

With an added touch of farce it was a reversion to the conspiratorial tradi-tions of the bolsheviks. The diehard remnant of the once mighty Soviet Communist party was yesterday reduced to meeting in a farmyard building illuminated by candlelight and, intermittently,

by a single light bulb powered by a car battery. The attempt by a few hun-dred anti-Yeltsin communists to reconvene the full Soviet parliament and resurrect the Soviet Union collapsed in hasty and disorganised pro-ceedings in the assembly hall of a collective dairy farm at Podolsk, outside Moscow. In Moscow itself, thou-

sands of demonstrators. mainly older Russians, thronged the streets in sup-port of the communists. They denounced President Yeltsin's market reforms, and de-

A rally of Russia's communist old guard failed to take off and degenerated into farce. Bruce Clark reports from Moscow

clared the "reinstatement of Soviet power". The hardliners can present themselves as martyred tribunes of the people. Those with long memories recalled that the bolsheviks had had modest beginnings in a ware-house in London's Totten-ham Court Road in 1903.

and had gone on to stage a

revolution in Petrograd 14

Yesterday's diehard assembly, however, held at Podolsk because it had been banned in Moscow, showed no such promise. Only a fraction of the old

parliament's 2,250 members attended, bused out of Moscow in six hattered coaches. They were outnumbered by the 200 reporters who followed them in a comical car chase to the nondescript farming settlement near

With as much dignity as they could muster in a dreary concrete building whose power supply had been cut off, organisers rattled through their agenda, including the adoption of a string of hardline resolutions which few had time actually to read.

The resolutions insisted that the Soviet Union and its parliament still existed; denounced the break-up of the Soviet army; railed against the idea of Russia joining Nato, and deplored "foreign Continued on page 18, col 3

Leading article, page 15

Big rise in births for over-35s

By LIN JENKINS

WELL-EDUCATED women are responsible for a huge increase in the rate of childbearing among women in their thirties, according to an Office of Population Censuses and Surveys study out today.

Changes in the fertility rate of different age groups has diverged for the first time since records began. The overall rate of births increased by 8 1990, bringing the average family size to 1.84 children, but births to women aged 30 and over rose by 30 per cent, and women over 35 experienced a 44 per cent increase.

Careers first, page 4

message to Election Candidates



In the next three weeks, 756,000 Third World children will die because of poverty.

A recent opinion poll' shows 74% of people think the Government should do more to help people in the Third World.

For 50 years we have been working alongside poor people to fight poverty.

Our supporters will be asking you, the candidates, what you will do to tackle the poverty that kills a child every 2.4 seconds:

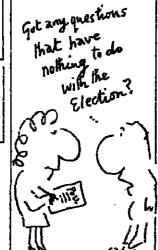
*(NOP; sample 1000 adults, January 1992)



If anyone would like details on Oxfam's Campaign for a Fairer World, or to make a donation, please ring: 12 (0865) 313131

Or write to: Oxfam, Room BE77, FREEPOST, Oxford, OX2 7BR

Now you can't even vote with your feet



BY ALAN HAMILTON

ENERVATED by the election already? Brassed off with the babble, sick of the psephology, jaded with John, mumbed by Neil, perfectly paralysed by Paddy? Now would seem the ideal time for all sensible persons rendered catatoric by the campaigning to buy an air ticket and flee the country to some samer clime

Don't even think about it. One distressing effect of the new fashion for democracy is that almost the entire democracy is that almost the entire world is suffering a global epidemic of electioneering. Few countries can be recommended as entirely safe, and medical science has yet to develop an inoculation against the infection that is rapidly becoming resistant to that reliable old standby, jackboot dictatorship. So you thought you might hop over to France until the Branch outbreak had here homoght under countril.

been brought under control? An unwise

move: the French hold their regional elections this Sunday and, being the French, have to have another round on March 29. Italy? Highly dangerous: the Italians, who suffer enclessly from hung parliaments, go to the polls on April 5 and 6. Avoid Germany, too: Schleswig-Holstein and Baden-Wurttemberg are even now dusting down the ballot boxes. Denmark? Heavens, no: it is winding up for a referendum on the Maastricht summit. And avoid Andorra: its general election is four days before our own.

America is, of course, absolutely riddled with the virus, and do not imagine that even the uttermost corners of the union are in any way sanitary: the American Virgin Islands hold their caucus on March 28. The disease has been endemic in the US since George Washington caught it from Tom Paine and other European carriers, but it is now almost as rife in the newly exposed nations of the east. Russia has become a hopeless mous republic of Tatarstan on Saturday, and another sweeping across the whole of Siberia next week. Even Albania is having one on Sunday.

Somewhere further afield, perhaps? Quite hopeless. The South Korean general election is on Tuesday, and the golden beaches of Phuket will be polluted by polling day in Thailand on April 5. Also avoid Iran: parliamentary elections strike there on April 10. And forget heading for Timbuktu: it is, sadly, situated in the republic of Mali, whose

presidential election is on April 12. Experts have identified 58 countries expected to suffer from elections this year. Among the few regarded as safe in the short term is China. But check before booking, and always take precautions, such as avoiding unprotected contact with local newspapers and television. Innocent they may seem, but they could be carriers.

Rover deal guarantees workers jobs for life

By Kevin Eason, motoring correspondent

ALMOST 35 000 Rover workers are about to agree to the most revolutionary deal in the British car industry, guar-

anteeing jobs for life. Union leaders yesterday recommended acceptance of new Japanese style working practices in return for the guarantees. Details will be outlined to the Midlandsbased workforce in time for a ballot early next month.

Unions have been negotiating for two months on com-

Suspicion lingers on shopfloor

ROVER workers arriving at Longbridge yesterday greeted the new deal with suspicion although many were anxious to make changes that would improve the company.

Michael Wright, aged 43. will become a team leader of 15 men under the new system. "Greater flexibility is the main thing. Certain people do certain jobs but now there will be greater mobility of labour," he said.

Mike Blakeway, an engine stamper, said: "It will be an improvement because it will make us more versatile. It is boring doing the same thing all day." David Cutler, a seat builder, and also a shop steward, was suspicious of the "jobs for life" guarantee.
"The idea that everybody is equal is all very well but there are going to be some people more equal than others."

Finbar Madden, who works in the hot test section, said: "They are trying to introduce a foreign culture's ideas and it will not work. I

pany proposals to counter the threat from Japanese factories setting up in the UK. Working from greenfield sites and with young workforces, the Japanese "transplants"

are setting higher productivity targets for British firms. Rover has already adopted many Japanese techniques to make its Longbridge plant at Birmingham one of the most efficient in Europe but further efficiencies are needed if Rover is to improve its pos-ition and remain competitive. George Simpson, Rover's chairman, has said improvements in efficiency of about 30 per cent will be needed in

the next three years. Unions were asked to abandon demarcation lines to allow assembly workers to move between different jobs. The reward for increasing pro-ductivity will be the guaran-tee of job security, the only guarantee of its kind offered in mainstream manufacturing industry in Britain. Only Nissan at Washington, Tyne and Wear, offers similar pledges in the car industry.

Mr Simpson wants a "cra-dle to grave" career structure allowing white and blue collar workers the opportunity of advancement and freedom from fear of sudden unem-ployment. The agreement will prevent compulsory redundancies although enhanced retirement and voluntary redundancy deals will still be available. Clock-ing on will also be abolished if workers agree to the deal.

Rover has taken the most radical step in the industry by trying to make its changes at once throughout the company. It had little choice: its 35,000 workers make 400,000 cars a year from two plants: Nissan, with 3,000 assembly workers, is scheduled to produce 270,000 at

Orphan hears for first time

By Ray Clancy

ATTILA Erdei, an orphan aged five from Romania, yesterday returned to his homeland after medical treatment in Northern Ireland which has enabled him to hear properly for the first time.

Doctors at the Royal Bel-fast Hospital for Sick Children have fitted Attila with two hearing aids giving him almost perfect hearing. After a month of treatment he is already stringing words together and his favourite pastime is listening to music. We speak to him in Romanian so he does not get confused by English words, Iosif Ovidiu, project director with Express Aid Interna-tional, a Belfast based chari-

Two physically handi-capped orphans will visit Belfast later this year for six months of medical treatment and Attila, who was found wandering the streets of Arad by a policeman, will return in December for further treatment. Express Aid International is also involved in exchange schemes to bring Romanian doctors to Belfast for specialised training and is planning to sent British doctors to Romania to run courses in hospitals.



Switched on: Attila Erdei happily wearing the new aids that have given him almost perfect hearing

Duke invited to meet Greek Orthodox leader

THE Duke of Edinburgh, born into the Greek Ortho-dox faith but received into the Anglican church on his marriage to the future supreme governor of the Church of England in 1947. has been invited to Turkey in May to meet members of the eastern's faith's minority community in that officially secular but predominantly Islamic state.

Buckingham Palace yester-day refused to confirm that the duke, who is currently abroad, had any entry in his diary for a trip to Turkey. He is, however, confidently expected to arrive in the country in a private capacity to meet Bartholomew I, the repatriarch who leads Turkey's

Alan Hamilton and Andrew Finkel in Istanbul report on how the Duke of Edinburgh's environmental concerns are leading him back towards the church into which he was born

tiny enclave of 5,000 Orthodox adherents, and who takes a strong line on envi-ronmental issues.

Sources in Ankara, the Turkish capital, said yester-day that the duke had been invited to visit a theological seminary closed by the Turkish authorities in the 1970s when the country was under martial law, and to be a guest at a holy synod of the orthodox church that will debate environmental issues.

The Turkish government said yesterday that it had not been informed officially of

any visit by the duke, and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, through which all roy-al visits abroad are supposed to be sanctioned, will treat any such visit with mild trepidation, given that the Greek Orthodox church is not only a minority sect in Turkey, but one which has been oppressed in the past.

Martin Palmer, director of

the Manchester-based International Consultancy on Re-ligion, Education and Culture and an adviser on religious affairs to the World Wide Fund for Nature, of

which the duke is interna-tional president, has been in Turkey arranging the visit. Last week Mr Palmer wrote in The Spectator that the duke's interest in the Orthodox church was profound, and claimed that the Queen's husband found his original faith to have a better understanding of where man stood in relation to God and creation than did the Church of

Buckingham Palace has said that there is no question of the duke abandoning his adopted Anglican faith, a de-

cision that would be virtually impossible given the Queen's position as head of the established church. The duke's interest in the eastern religion is said to be purely on account of its commitment to conservation, and its belief that technological advance is not always compatible witl: spiritual progress, an issue to which the duke is strongly

A visit to Turkey by the duke would vastly enhance the standing of Bartholomew i, a barber's son whose domain is a few ramshackle buildings in a run-down part of Istanbul but who regards himself as primus inter pare in a church which claims 300 million adherents in south-

Lockerbie judgment reserved

Scottish police investigating the Lockerbie bombing in 1988 are awaiting a decision from the High Court in London on whether they are entitled to take possession of a journalist's taped interviews with two Libyan agents accused of plotting the attack.

Two judges yesterday reserved judgment on a move by the American ABC News corporation and Pierre Salinger, its chief foreign correspondent in London, to quash an order by Middlesex crown court requiring them to hand over video footage and tape recordings to anti-terrorist police. ABC and Mr Salinger said the order was unlawful and unreasonable because they were not told what information the police had relied on to obtain it.

Libya links, page 18

Libel appeal

Derbyshire county council is to appeal to the House of Lords after being defeated in a libel action. Last month the appeal court blocked a libel action by the council against Times Newspapers over a story on share-dealing in The Sunday Times. The court ruled the council could not sue to protect its reputation in the way individuals can and it was ordered to pay all the legal costs.

Search resumed

The search for a missing East Kilbride hillwalker was resumed yesterday after bloodstains were discovered in deep snow on Stob Coire nan Lochan, 2,000ft above Glen Coe. Stewart Bryan vanished during a walk in Glen Coe ten days ago. Five days of exhaustive searches of the mountains by rescue teams, sniffer dogs and the RAF produced Letters, page 15 nothing.

CORRECTION

Law Times said yesterday that Lord Mishcon, a distinguished solicitor, is a past chairman of the Bar. He is not, and The Times apologises for the error.



Plenty of space. Isn't that what Canada is famous for?

It also happens to be what its national airline. Air Canada, is famous for. Take our Executive Class, for instance. Instead of putting in more seats, we've given our seats more room.

That's why no-one flying to Canada has more legroom than us. You'll find a leg-stretching 45" between you and the seat in front.

They're wide, too. And the recline is hig so you can be even more laid back than before.

But what really makes us stand out is the way we've spread our Executive Class. On our new 747-400s it's divided into 3 distinct cabins. So, apart from a feeling of exclusivity, you get room to breathe.

Which leads us to the subject of air in the cabin.

Relax. Seats in our executive class are few and far between.

Because there are five separate areas of air distribution, the quality of air circulating in the cabin is a lot cleaner. And a lot less dry.

So, instead of drinking gallons of water, you can perhaps indulge in some fine wines, teas and coffees that we serve with our food.

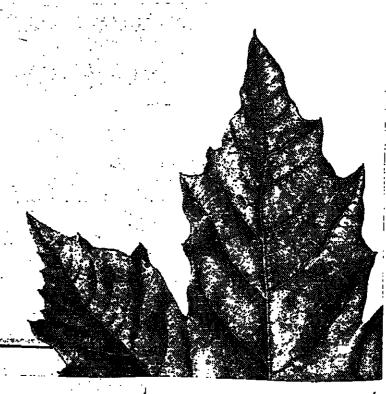
A lot of which, by the way, is what we call NutriCuisine. This means it's low in salt, sugar and fat. And given 24 hours notice, our chefs can prepare a variety of cuisines for those people with special diets.

Also, as this choice is available to you on more flights to more destinations in Canada, you've now got plenty of food for thought,

For further details, why not visit your travel agency or call 081 759 2636 from London (0800-18-13-13 from elsewhere in the UK).



A BREATH OF FRESH AIR



MAK

judgme resent

THE council planning officer shot dead in a televised confrontation over a bungalow built without planning permission ignored advice from police and lawyers about how the demolition should be carried out, a count was told Senior officers and the sol-

icitor to Derwentside council in Co Durham urged that Albert Dryden, the bungalow owner, should not be told in advance of the day the bulldozers were to move in to knock down the building. Their advice was overruled by Harry Collinson, the council's senior planning officer, and the authority's planning committee, who insisted that the demolition be carried out openly. A letter was sent to Mr Dryden, notifying him of the details and timing, Newcastle upon Tyne crown court was told.

When council officers and demolition workers turned up on June 20 last year, Mr Dryden, aged 51, who had previously threatened violence in defence of his home, was waiting for them. The jury was told that when Mr Collinson refused to order the bulldozers away, Mr Dryden

rebuked

for adverts

demolishing home

Shot planning chief

'ignored advice' on

shot him through the chest with a revolver. As onlookers, including police and journalists, fled. Mr Dryden fired 11 more shots, the jury was told. Mr

mortally wounded in a ditch.

Tony Belmont, a BBC television reporter, and PC Stephen Campbell were shot and wounded as the cameras contimued to record. That evening, the incident was seen by

Durham, denies murdering Mr Collinson at the bungalow in Butsfield. He also denies attempting to murder Mr Belmont and PC Campbell and Michael Dunston, a council solicitor. He denies wounding the television reporter and a policeman.

attended a meeting of council said: "The police thought that Mr Dryden should not be told the day and time of the

demolition. There was Jail escape Whitehall total

ed for publishing misleading advertisements which implied that recent bad weather and the hurricane of 1987 were caused by global warming (Alison Roberts writes).

The campaign by the de-partments of energy and envi-ronment was designed to encourage energy conservadards Authority said that the connection between global warming and the hurricane has not been proved.

The headline, above six pictures of the after-effects of

the 1987 storm, said: "Global Warming. We have been warned." The headline was qualified in smaller print: Scientists are not yet able to say if the Great Storm of 1987 and the 'hurricanes' of 1989 and 1990 are among the first signs of of global warming." The authority upheld complaints and ruled that the overall impression of the posters was misleading.

Arms dealer on murder charge

An arms dealer has appeared in court accused of conspiring to murder David Wilson, the businessman killed at his home in Lancashire by two masked gunmen 12 days ago. Stephen Schepke, aged 44, of Sidcup, Kent, was remanded in custody for seven days by magistrates in Chorley.

A police investigation is continuing into the death of Mr Wilson, aged 47. a partner in an accountancy firm, who was shot twice in the head in the garage of his home while his family was held hostage in the house.

Tapes enquiry

155

Criminal or disciplinary action is being considered against 12 West Midlands police drugs squad detectives after a Police Complaints Authority report into complaints against them by Stafford Douglas, aged 42. Mr Douglas, who was acquitted on drug charges at Birmingham last year, secretly recorded conversations with one of the officers, who he alleged tried to blackmail him into becoming an informant.

Bomb found

An unexploded second world war bomb was removed from the loft of a house in Nottingham. Doris Shelton, who moved into the house before the war, said: "I can remember the air raid in April 1941. Two people were killed next door and our house was damaged but they must have missed the bomb when it was repaired." The army destroyed the bomb in a con-trolled explosion.

Gun accident

A member of Scotland Yard's royalty and diplomatic protection group was resting comfortably in hospital last night after accidentally shooting himself in the leg during training at Waltham Abbey. Essex. The wound, caused by a plastic training round, was described as not serious but the man, aged 31, was flown to hospital in Epping.

Collinson was shot again, in the chest and head, as he lay

millions of viewers on television news programmes.

Mr Dryden, of Consett, Co

On the second day of the trial yesterday. Mr Dunston told the jury that he had officials and the police a few days before the demolition was due to be carried out. He

reaches 35

HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE escape on Monday night of two prisoners from Maidstone jail, Kent, has brought to 35 the number of prisoners who have escaped from jails in England and Wales this year.

A further 22 have fled while being escorted outside jails by prison staff and 304 have absconded, usually while on home leave. The Home Office, however, is unable to say how many of those who have escaped or absconded this year or last year have renumed to prison. Last year 184 prisoners escaped from jails in England and Wales, 110 fled from escorts, and

1.650 absconded In the latest escape, Greg-ry Crabtree, aged 26, of Feltham, west London, and Michael Johnson, aged 24, of South Harrow, northwest London, scaled the wall of Maidstone jail using a rope made of knotted sheets.

Crabtree was serving a sentence for firearms and robbery offences as well as a previous escape from jail. Johnson was jailed for theft, burglary and possession of

Police, who were checking addresses in the Home Counties yesterday, described both men as dangerous and warned the public not to approach them.

another opinion that it should all be done in the open. I thought that, in view of the history of the matter, it should not be done openly." The court was told that Mr

Dryden insisted that he had been promised a reprieve while the planning authorities considered his appeal A letter telling him that his appeal was invalid arrived the day after the shooting.

and then returned to the ditch where Mr Collinson had fallen after the first shot.

umed was Harry's body. When Mr Dryden walked off again, still firing, Mr Allun and his colleague went to see if they could help Mr Collinson. "We saw him lying in the ditch. We couldn't tell if he was dead," he said. The pair stayed for only 30 seconds before they again had to run for cover when Mr Dryden turned towards them.

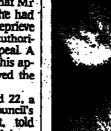
leagues might be shot again."

Mr Belmont said that he

erations on a shattered bone in his right arm. He still had a steel plate in his forearm and had not recovered the full use of his hand because of a damaged nerve.
PC Campbell told the court that, as Mr Dryden ap-

proached the gate of the prop-erty, he saw that the hammer of his gun was cocked. He and shots were then fired. I was behind the excavator trying to keep covered. There was a general air of panic and I was conscious that Dryden fence. I thought I had better run as fast as I could. I got

The trial continues today.



Michael Allun, aged 22, a technician in the council's planning department, told the court that he had been taking photographs at the scene when he saw Mr Dryden raise his revolver and shoot Mr Collinson. He and a colleague, who had been making a video recording of the events, ran down the road and took cover behind a parked van. Mr Dryden began walking towards there

Mr Allun said: "He pointed the gun and shot what I

Mr Belmont, aged 39, told the court that he ran for safety after seeing Mr Collinson shot. "I turned and I was hit in the right arm. There was a general melée, a panic. People were running for their lives. I just had a feeling I had to get out of there because the pain was quite tremendous. I was afraid I and my col-

had since undergone four op-

said: "No words were spoken was coming through the shot in the lower back and feit

Helen Dodd, an officer at Consett county court, said that, two months before the shooting, Mr Dryden had visited her office to ask if he could take out an injunction against the council for trespassing on his land. She said that she advised him to see a solicitor, but he became agi-tated, threatening: "I will take a gun to the lot of them."



Family firm: Donovan, the 1960s pop singer, in London yesterday with his daughter, Astrella Celeste, aged 21. She is a member of his new band which is touring Britain for Friends of the Earth's 21st anniversary fundraising event in May. Bike to the Future

Golf courses ruin rural heritage, says trust

By JOHN YOUNG

THE National Trust yestercerned particularly about the future of upland sheep farming. Farms in the Lake Disday voiced its concern over the recession in agriculture trict, the Peak District, the Yorkshire dales and moors, and the threat to the livelihoods of tenant farmers. and upland Wales were tra-The countryside was manmade, even in the uplands, ditionally dependent on their flocks, and without them

and its quality and rich variety, which the trust was required to protect, had been centuries in the making. "Neither extensive farming. nor setaside when it takes the form of golf courses or huge conifer plantations, are the answer. The latter destroy what we seek to protect."
Lord Chorley, the trust's chairman, said in a preface to its annual report.

As the nation's largest private landowner, the trust was concerned about the future of British agriculture and the massive changes now affecting the farming community.
"It is important to us that our 1,200 tenant farmers, and the rural communities of which they are part, should agricultural rents are an important, albeit declining, source of income."

would no longer be working farms, he said. Sheep were effective lawnmowers and without them vegetation would change, with heather replacing grass, and scrub and woodland developing at lower altitudes. While welcoming the con-cept of environmentally sensitive areas and the new countryside stewardship scheme, the trust said it

would like to see special incentives to ensure a viable future for sheep farming. Angus Stirling, the trust's director-general, said yester-day that many older tenant farmers were unwilling to encourage their sons to take over because they did not see any future in farming.

Lord Chorley also drew attention vesterday to the threat from new road schemes, about 40 of which affected trust

Lord Chorley was con-CATANGE BUSINESS CONTROL OF THE PROPERTY OF TH

Fountains Abbey & Studiey Royal, N Yorks Stourhead Garden, Wittshire St Michalel's Mount, Cornwall Styal, Quarry Bank Mill, Cheshire Polesden Lacey, Surrey Wakehurst Place, West Sussex Sissinghurst, Kent Bodhant Garden, Gwynedd Chartwell, Kent Bodfam Castle, East Sussex Corfe Castle, Dorset Lanhydrock, Cornwall 300.067 228,399 194,973 187,841 192,738 188,806 170,075 170,105 181,983 164,304 163,221

298,272 228,209 215,739 208,269 204,738 199,660 194,860 182,105 173,621 162,320

improvements to the A3 where it crossed the Devil's Punch Bowl near Hindhead, Surrey: the A5 at the entrance to the Snowdonia national park in North Wales; and the A35 in Dorset which would cross part of the Golden Cap. The trust accepted that new roads were needed, but would like to see a change in "cultural attitudes" within the transport department. They are engineers, and they like building roads," Lord Chorley said. The number of paying visi-

properties. Among them were

tors to trust properties last year fell by 4 per cent, and finances were also affected by the rise in value-added tax and by stricter rules govern-ing covenants. However, the trust was able to increase expenditure by nearly, 18 per cent to £82 million, largely due to the generosity of

In an attempt to counter the rise in thefts from its properties, the trust will ban all internal photography by visitors from the beginning of next month. The fear is that thieves may use cameras to pinpoint the location of pictures and ornaments to help a night-time raid.

Leading article, page 15

Nature group issues plea for real forests

By Kerry Gill

CONCERN over a decline in natural woodland in Scotland has led environmental bodies to call for a review of forest policy aimed at creating authentic woods and forests instead of huge clumps of conifers "with frilly edges". The Scottish Wildlife and

Countryside Link, a group of 22 conservation and recreation bodies, today publishes a paper on how forests should be developed. It said that the planning target of the govern-ment and the Forestry Commission, of 33,000 hectares a year, had no rational basis and did not indicate where forests should be created or what type they should be.

Andy Wightman, editor of the report, said: "For stry policy has been, until recently, centred around timber production. We have had timber production policies deciding what type of forests we should have. This paper concentrates on the creation of real woods and forests rather than plantations of fast-growing

conifers with frilly edges." Mr Wightman said that there had to be a more holistic approach. Policy should cover recycling, timber imports, the water table and rural development. The paper says that forests should be designed to bring environmental, recreational and social benefits while avoiding harm to wildlife, archaeological sites, farmland and access Most of Scotland used to be natural forest, including oak, Scots pine and rowan. Only 14 per cent is now under

trees, of which only 1 per cent is native woodland. Conservationists yesterday began a campaign to replace the Exmoor national park board with an elected local authority with wide powers to protect the area (Douglas Broom writes). The Exmoor Society said reorganisation of local government, promised

by the main political parties,

offered a chance to form a unitary authority.

The national park straddles the Somerset/Devon boundary and is in the jurisdiction of at least three district councils. The park board, with wide 'planning powers, is a committee of Somerset county council, with a third of it

government-appointed.. Guy Somerset, the society chairman, said: "Everything that happens in the national park affects its character."

However, Jenny Cunningham, of the Council for National Parks, a charity, said: "It would take away the clarity of vision that national park boards now have by bogging them down in details like providing school dinners."

Theatre deal assures future of ENO

BY SIMON TAIT ARTS CORRESPONDENT

ENGLISH National Opera assured its future yesterday by buying its home, the Coliseum, for £12.8 million with the help of a last minute grant by the government.

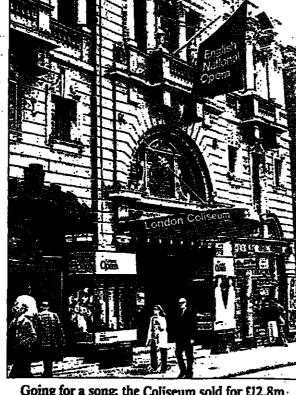
Peter Jonas, general director of the ENO, said: "Every

step we have taken over the last eight years has been with the knowledge that the lease was coming up in 1996. This is a tremendous moment because at last that spectre is no longer with

First news of the government grant came on Mon-day, the last day of official Commons business before the election, when Tim Renton, the arts minister, hinted through a Hansard announcement that a £10.8 million unspecified grant from the Treasury reserve fund was to be made. The same afternoon, contracts were signed by ENO and Stoll Moss Theatres after receiving the government grant and a further £2 million from the pools companies' Foundation for

Sport and the Arts. Mr Jonas, Mark Elder, his musical director, and David Pountney, director of productions, have been involved in secret negotiations with Stoll Moss Theatres for a year. All three are leaving next year, and Mr Jonas had given until this April to re-

solve the matter. "Having the freehold means a quite different attitude to the theatre in terms of working on it, producing



Going for a song the Coliseum sold for £12.8m

in it, and raising investment to help us." he said.

ENO now has to raise another £20 million for refurbishment and repairs at the theatre with a new rehearsal room and acoustic repairs as priorities.

The company had been in deadlock with the former Stoll Moss owner, Robert Holmes à Court, who found the 50-year lease at £350,000 a year rent "unrealistic". He saw the Colise-

um as the jewel in his Stoll Moss crown, not for sale, and carried out negotiations

Only after he died in Sep-

tember 1990 did talk of a sale begin. Richard Johnston, managing director of Stoll Moss who took on the negotiations, said that the apparent bargain price was better than an unrealitic rent and an uncertain future after 1996.

The ceiling in the dress

circle has recently collapsed under the weight of rain-water and a speedy repair of part of the roof was carried out with a sponsorship of £168,000. Walls are streaked and blackened, carets threadbare, paintwork flaked and plasterwork crumbling to uncover bare brick underneath.

The gilded plaster on the front of the royal box is bad-ly chipped, and the golden ions on top of the boxes on either side of the stage have lost their glister underneath layers of dust, which will cost £6,000 to remove.

The Coliseum, described as "the triumph of the century" when it opened as the largest theatre in London, is the Baroque masterpiece of Frank Matcham. Oswald Stoll commissioned and opened it as a variety theaire in 1904, but closed "the Playhouse of the World" two years later because of falling box office sales. He was unable to sell and

instead, Stoll brought in George Robey. Little Tich, Nellie Wallace, Harry Lauder, Vesta Tilley, W.C. Fields and even Sarah Bernhard; as crowd pullers. Later, Gracie Fields and Nocl Coward performed there, and several galas and royal variety performances were staged. The Coliseum became the home of the Sadier's Wells Opera, now ENO. in 1968.

\$ir Nicholas Goodison, vice-chairman of the ENO, said: "Our duty now is to make it the best theatre we can for the largest opera audiences in the country."



Out today. £1.30

Halford refused

access

to files

By RICHARD FORD HOME CORRESPONDENT ALISON Halford, one of the country's most senior police-

women, failed yesterday in an

attempt to see police com-

plaints and disciplinary files

which she wanted to use in

The Court of Appeal ruled

that she was not entitled to see

the confidential documents

held by James Sharples, the

chief constable of Merseyside.

chief constable of Merseyside,

is bringing a sex discrimina-

tion case alleging that she was barred from promotion

because she is a woman. She

alleged sexual discrimination

after applying in March

chief constable of Northamp-tonshire and she claims she

has been refused promotion

nine times because of her sex.

being supported by the Equal Opportunities Commission and which is expected to be

heard in May, Miss Halford

wanted permission to see doc-uments, including police

complaints and disciplinary

files, which she says are rele-

By a two to one majority,

the appeal court yesterday supported Mr Sharples and the home secretary in their opposition to the files being

made available to Miss Halford and her advisers. Sir Stephen Brown, one of the judges, said: "I consider there

is an overriding public interest in maintaining the integ-

rity of the police complaints

and disciplinary files." He

said that was not altered by

Miss Halford's membership of the Merseyside force.

Lord Justice Ralph Gibson

disagreed and said he did not consider that public interest meant that the files were

has been suspended from

perceptions that she was a lesbian. She has been accused

could return to work, Mersey-

side Police Authority renewed

immune from disclosure. Miss Halford, aged 51,

vant to her claim.

As part of her case, which is

Miss Halford, an assistant

her sex discrimination case.

Couples delay family life to boost careers

Fertility rate soars among thirtysomething women

THE fertility rate of women in their late thirties has risen by 44 per cent in a decade as more couples delay marriage and put off having a family until their careers are well

The 1980s saw a surge in the number of births to women aged thirtysomething and if the current trend continues, the 1990s will see an even more dramatic increase in the number and proportion of births to women over 30, according to statistics published today in *Population Trends*, the journal of the Office of Population Censuses

and Surveys.
While the decade saw a rise of 8 per cent in all births, the number of births to women aged thirty and over rose by 30 per cent from 171,000 in 1980 to 218,000 ten years ater. In 1990, 30 per cent of all births were to women over thirty. Ten years earlier the proportion was 26 per cent. The study shows that whereas

used to coincide in all age groups, there is now a big divergence between younger and older women. The change is seen as large-

ly the result of highly educat-ed women, whose husbands or partners are professional men on high salaries, delay-ing childbearing. "This trend has not resulted from a postponement of childbirth within marriage, but rather suggests that marriage has been delayed. Indeed, childbearing may act as the spur to marriage for some cohabiting couples," Clare Jones, author of the study, said. "However, a recent estimate indicates that at older ages the fertility rates of cohabiting women may have been slightly higher than those of married women. Thus, the extent to which the trend towards later age at marriage has influ-enced, or been influenced by, shorter marriage durations before the first birth, and the

overall postponement of childbearing, is unclear."

For women aged 30 to 34, the fertility rate rose from 69 births per thousand women in 1981 to 76 in 1985 and to 87 in in 1990, an overall rise of 27 per cent. Over the same period the fertility rate of women in their late thirties increased from 22 in 1981 to 31 in 1990.

The fertility of women in their early forties has risen each year since 1982 at a slower rate from four births per thousand to five per thousand in 1990.

The unprecedented aspect of the trend is the difference between the fertility of younger women compared with older. Whereas rates for all age groups used to rise and fall together, those for women in their twenties have de-clined from 1980 to levels far lower than have been seen since the second world war. The fertility rate of women aged 20 to 24 fell 19 per cent to 92 births per thousand women in 1990. During the

same period, fertility of

women aged 25 to 29 dropped by 8 per cent. By 1990, the rate for women aged 20 to 24 was only slightly above that of women aged 30 to 34, marking a dramatic change since 1980 when it had been one that diese in the "Due to the rise in the

number of women aged 20 to

29 the impact of the reduced fertility rates of the number of births has so far been dampened," the report said. "The number of births to women aged 20 to 24 decreased by 11 per cent between 1980 and 1990, while the number of births to women aged 25 to 29 actually increased by over 17 per cent as the 1960s baby boom generation reached these ages. Thus if the current trends in age specific fertility rates persist, the 1990s will witness even more dramtic increases in the number and proportion of births to women in their thirties."



Happy family: the actress Patricia Hodge who joined the trend for later babies with her second child, a boy born earlier this year when she was aged 45

EC backs air fares freedom

PASSENGERS on regular UK flights to Europe could pay far less from next year. Most EC member-states

are near to agreement on a formula allowing airlines to fix their own fares, Karel Van Miert, the EC transport commissioner, said in London yesterday. "The majority seem to be willing to go along with having the freedom to fix tariffs." The new fare system could start in January.

At present, European air fares are governed by the "double disapproval" principle. If, for example, a British airline wants to introduce a new fare to France, it can be stopped if the British and French governments oppose it. Under the new scheme, airlines could fix any fare they want, although the EC would regulate the system to prevent airlines making predatory or domineering fare changes. Mr Van Miert was speak-

ing after attending a meeting of transport ministers from the 28-member states of the European Civil Aviation Conference in Westminster. He also said that airlines were likely to be allowed to land at and take-off from more than one city in another member state on the same scheduled service. Thus, Air France could fly to London, pick up passengers and fly on to Manchester

Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary, said at the meeting that passengers face at least another two years of airport delays in spite of improvements to the air traffic control system.

delayed last year.

duty for more than a year pending disciplinary proceedings which her lawyer has said were motivated by of discreditable conduct while on duty after allegations that she swam in her underwear at the home of a Birkenhead Last December, a High Court judge ruled that the manner of her suspension was unlawful. Before she

Mr Van Miert said that air traffic delays in Europe cost £3.8 billion a year. More than 10,000 flights a month in the winter and more than 20,000 a month in the summer were



Halford: says files are relevant to her claim

BBC goes for gold with Olympics

EXCLUSIVE live coverage of the Barcelona Olympics is the highlight of the BBC's £70 million spring and summer schedules launched yesterday. The announcement fol-

lows a dispute over exclu-sive coverage of the cricket World Cup by BSkyB, which led to millions of viewers missing live transmission of the matches and prompted questions in the

Commons. Jonathan Powell, BBC1 controller, said: "Exclusive coverage of the Olympic Games gives a special focus to BBC1 this summer. This is accompanied by a range of brand new quality dra-ma, plus fresh comedy, entertainment and factual

programmes. On election night, lead-ing comedians will focus on the life of John Major with the prime minister played by Adrian Edmondson and the Labour leader's wife, Glenys Kinnock, played by Dawn French.

Alan Yentob, controller of BBC2, said the season was "ambitious, imaginative, even a little subversive. When the polls close on election night both the Comic Strip and Have I Got News For You will offer some pungent topical en-

new dramas and several new comedies on both channels. Susan Hamp shire and Tony Britton appear in Don't Tell Father by Roy Clarke, writer of Last of the Summer Wine,

The season includes nine

and Gareth Hunt and Louisa Rix star in Side by Side. The comedienne Marti Caine returns to television after her fight against cancer in a comedy show, Joker In The Pack, and Bruce Forsyth headlines in a variety show that will feature guests such as Dudley Moore and Larry Hagman. The comedian Harry En-

field returns to BBC2 for another series of his show and on Good Friday the Red Nose Day team looks at how the money raised is used in the Third World in Behind the Nose. The first 36 hours of the

Falklands conflict will be recreated on BBC2 in An Ungentlemanly Act, which is now being filmed to mark the 10th anniversary of the outbreak of the war. It stars lan Richardson as Sir Rex Hunt, the former governor of the Falklands. Terry Wogan will co-host The Health Show, with Jakki

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Police begin investigation into sinking of fishing boat described by engineer as 'the worst ship I have ever seen'

Families call for truth over trawler deaths

THE Pescado was a jinxed ship. Joseph O'Connor, an Irishman who was its former owner and then agent, had convictions for owning an unsafe vessel and for fraud.

The 70ft trawler, built 36

Halfor

refuse

.7 +

years ago, first foundered on the Welsh coast ten years ago, was refloated and then sank in Fishguard harbour. It was bought by Mr O'Connor after being salvaged and added to his Plymouth-registered fleet, which included Spanish-owned trawlers he had registered in Britain to exploit EC fishing rules. "I am a pioneer not a pirate," he said.

Ownership of the Pescado passed to Guideday, a Plymouth-based company, two years ago when Mr O'Connor went bankrupt, but he remained its agent and organised its refit in Plymouth. How that refit was conducted and funded form part of a Devon and Cornwall police investigation. Ernie Hart-Greenwood, an experienced engineer who worked on the worst ship I have ever seen." His fears were passed to the transport department.

Sean Deakin, who carried out sea trials, found it unstable and complained that the auto-pilot and short-wave radio failed to work and the ship's lights were invisible from some angles.

Early last year, the Pescado began a series of fishing trips despite the lack of a safety certificate, a licence to fish or adequate insurance. None of the authorities on the quayside in Plymouth attempted to stop the trips, despite the Pescado's record and Mr O'Connor's background, which included a £7,500 fine for one of his companies for owning an unsafe vessel.

Six people died when the Pescado sank a year ago. Tony Dawe asks whether it should

Officials have since said that it is impossible to monitor the activities and status of every vessel on a busy coast.

Mr O'Connor had recruited scratch crews for two-week
scalloping trips that could
earn them £2,000 a head.
Among the crew leaving Falmouth on February 25 last
year was Adrian Flynn, aged
21, from Lincoln, who had
never been to sea. His mother Eileen said: "He hadn't
been working for six months
and hated being idle. He was
one of those who would go
anywhere for a job."

Jo-Ann Thomas, aged 22, from Plymouth, signed up as cook alongside Neil Currie, her fiance from the Hebrides, who skippered the vessel although he did not hold a captain's licence. The most surprising recruit was Sean Kelly, aged 17, foster brother of Sean Deakin, who had refused to sail on the Pescado after its sea trials. Jo Deakin, his foster mother, said: "I wasn't happy about him

IT-year-old what to do."
Three days after the ship left Falmouth, where it had stopped for repairs, a Looe trawlerman reported wreckage that could have come from the Pescado. Nobody saw the ship after that or had any contact with it, but a week passed before the own-

going, but just try telling a

ers reported it missing.

Miss Thomas's body and identifiable wreckage were

March; the vessel was pinpointed 240ft down, 13 miles
off the Cornish coast. It had
sunk in moderate weather,
well clear of shipping lanes
and without any reports of a
collision. The cause of the
tragedy remains a mystery,
but only a routine enquiry has
been carried out by the transport department's marine accident investigation branch.

It took three months to send a remote-control camera to film the wreck, and until to-day for the relatives to be shown the film in full. Charles Hantersley, a marine lawyer representing relatives, said: "It is significant that none in the crew nor the ship were insured. I am convinced that, if there had been a heavy insurance claim, things would have worked out differently."

Alan Ayres, Guideday managing director, who arranged independent filming of the wreck, has insisted that his video indicates the Pescado was hit by a submarine. The defence ministry has decied that any submarines were operating in the area at the time.

Last summer documents relating to the Pescado were enqu



Jinxed ship: the Pescado at Plymouth, and its agent, Joseph O'Connor, who bought the trawler after it had sunk twice

found by detectives from the Metropolitan police fraud squad investigating other aspess of Mr O'Connor's business.

In London last November, he was jailed for two years for a £360,000 fraud involving the phoney purchase of a ship in the Gulf. Papers were passed to Devon and Cornwall police, who have now launched a criminal investigation.

Relatives who welcomed an enquiry were dismayed by this month's summary report from the transport depart-

HEATHROW

ment's marine accident investigation branch drawing the "tentative conclusion" that the Pescado's starboard fishing gear had snagged on a seabed obstruction and

Rita Capon, Miss Thomas's mother, described the report as "rubbish" and, with other relatives, claimed that the vessel could have heeled without capsizing to a far greater extent than the investments have allowed.

tigators have allowed.

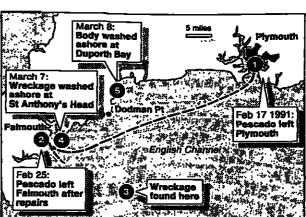
The relatives have also learnt that the deck was darnaged and believe that was

caused by a collision with another vessel.

Mrs Capon and Mrs Deakin will present their conclusions in the Free for All programme on Channel 4 tomorrow. "We have been waiting a year to find out how the crew died and all we have

the crew died and all we have got is three and a half pages of theory from the investigation branch." Mrs Deakin said.
"We have asked for a public enquiry and for the ship to be

"We have asked for a public enquiry and for the ship to be raised but got nothing, so we are going to try to find out for ourselves."





Alternative view: Jo Deakin, left, and Rita Capon, editing their film investigating the case

Damages payout is frozen

The High Court yesterday froze all but £40,000 of the £240,000 libel damages awarded on Monday to the Russian emigre Vladimir Telnikoff over a letter to a newspaper which branded an article he had written as racist and anti-Semitic.

The bulk of the award will remain frozen by order of Mr Justice Boreham pending the outcome of an appeal by the author of the letter. Vladimir

Matusevitch.
Mr Telnikoff, aged 55, of Highgate, north London, claimed that Mr Matusevitch's letter to The Daily Telegraph in February 1984 "devastated" his life.

Case referred

Evidence to an inquest on the death of Oliver Pryce, aged 30, of Wolverhampton, who died in police custody after being arrested in Middlesbrough, is to be referred to the Director of Public Prosecutions after the jury returned a verdict of unlawful killing.

Mast ahoy

A new 83ft mast for the Cutty Sark clipper in Greenwich has begun its journey by boat and lorry from Cowes in the Isle of Wight.

Worst verse

Joan Wallace, aged 49, of Nottingham, has won a place in the finals of a contest to find the world's worst poet, to be held in Paris in the summer.

Sale of note

\$4/4 A

A guitar owned by the flamenco guitarist Paco Peña was sold for £11,000 at Bonhams in Knightsbridge.

Low home valuations hit sales

By Rachel Kelly Property correspondent

LOW mortgage valuations by lenders are holding back a recovery in the housing market, according to estate agents.

Sales are collapsing after

buyer and seller have agreed on a price, because the bank or building society lending to the buyer values the property for mortgage purposes at a lower level than the agreed price, the agents say. The seller is naturally unwilling to let the house go at the

lower price.

"This is particularly happening at the bottom end of the property market among first time buyers." David Ware, president of the National Association of Estate Agents, said. "I'd say it is happening in up to 50 per cent of such deals."

Often the offer accepted is already well below the asking price, so a cut by a surveyor acting for the lender is a double blow to the seller who may well withdraw from the

Buyers are also unwilling to pay more than a lender's valuation. If they do, lenders require them to pay for mortgage indemnity to cover the difference in price.

"I don't think it's the fault of the banks or building societies, who make their money from lending and want to lend, but rather one must look at the surveyors doing the valuations," Mr Ware said. "Between 1986 and 1988, surveyors had a good time and didn't have to be very professional."

Now surveyors have to be extra cautious in case property values come down even more, he said.



With the launch of Heathrow-Brussels on March 29th, British Midland adds yet another route to its existing European services to Paris, Amsterdam, Dublin, Nice, Palma and Malaga

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EUROPEAN ALTERNATIVE

Public still believes Major to be the best prime minister

By Robin Oakley POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN Major retains a strong lead over Neil Kinnock in the public's estimation of his prime ministerial capabilities, despite Labour's fivepoint lead in the latest opinion polls.

When people were asked who would make the most capable prime minister 42 per cent chose Mr Major, 28 per cent Neil Kinnock and 20 per cent Paddy Ashdown. The Conservatives retain a clear lead over Labour on leadership, but Labour is seen as having the best policies for

When people were asked which party had the best team of leaders, 40 per cent named the Tories, 30 per cent Labour and 9 per cent the Liberal Democrats. When respondents were asked which party was the most clear and united about what its policies should be, 36 per cent named the Conservatives, 29 per cent the Labour party and 14 per cent the Liberal Democrats.

But when they were asked which party had the best policies for the country as a whole 34 per cent named Labour, 32 per cent the Conservatives and 12 per cent the Liberal

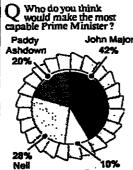
The Conservatives are seen as having the best policies on defence, law and order as well as in the key areas of taxation and managing the economy, the real battleground of this election. They lead 49-21 on defence, 40-24 on law and order, 39-33 on taxation and 36-30 on managing the economy. But Labour leads 51-24 as having the best policies for health care. Mr Kinnock and his party also lead on education (42-26), on unemployment (46-20) and on repl-

REMOREPHENCE

or should not put the new 20p income tax band back up to acing the poll tax (41-24). 25p nearly six in ten (57 per cent) said they should not. When people were asked what were the two or three Just under a third (31 per cent) said they should. But issues that would be most important to them in helping people clearly do not care too them decide who they voted deeply either way. When refor, the leading concerns were spondents were asked if health care (44 per cent), un-Labour's pledge to put back up the income tax band employment (29 per cent), and education (29). This arwould affect their voting ingues that the Conservatives we so far failed to lift to the tention, nine out of ten (89 per cent) said that it would top of the agenda the issues which they hope will determine the election outcome. taxation and the economy. Taxation has risen since the last Times/Mori only from 10 per cent to 13 per cent and

Early indications on John Smith's shadow budget are unfavourable for Labour. Although polling took place on Monday, some of it before Mr Smith delivered his shadow budget, it was well known from the Commons budget debate that Labour intended to scrap the 20p tax band on the first £2,000 of taxable income introduced by Nor-

CAPABLE PRIME MINISTER ?



make no difference. Of those few intending to switch their support as a result, 31 per cent said they would move to the Conservatives and 20 per cent said they would go to the Liberal Demmanaging the economy only ocrats, with 12 per cent switching to Labour in from 11 per cent to 15 per

The latest Mori poil confirms the potential support for Paddy Ashdown and his party indicated in the previ-ous Times/Mori poll a week ago. When people were asked how they would vote if they thought the Liberal Demo crats were likely to win in their constituency, 35 per cent said they would support the Liberal Democrats, 32 per cent Labour and 29 per cent Conservative.

man Lamont. When people were asked if Labour should

Labour's strongest card, the "time for a new act" argument, still has a potent pull with the electorate. When people were asked if they agreed or disagreed with the statement "It's time for a change", 69 per cent agreed and only 26 per cent

Mori interviewed a repre-sentative quota sample of 1,099 adults aged 18-plus in 54 constituencies, face to face in the street on March 16.

Labour lead sits oddly with

the sharp rise in voters' eco-

nomic optimism that Mori

records since last month.

Mori asked voters about "the

general economic situation in

the country over the next 12

months". Compared with

February the proportion ex-

pecting it to improve rose from 30 to 36 per cent and the proportion expecting it to get worse declined from 32 to 21 per cent.

The "index of optimism" —

has shifted dramatically from

-2 in February (and from -17 in December) to +15 now.
This latest figure is almost identical to that for April

1987, shortly before the last

general election, when the

Conservatives won comfort-

ably (see table). Voting studies have repeatedly found that economic optimism is one of

the most powerful predictors

of support for the

Red roses bloom in battle of **bulletins**

BY OUR POLITICAL EDITOR

IF CAMPAIGN success is measured in column inches and by keeping your subject top of the television news bulletins, Labour has had the best of things, so far.

Labour opened on Friday with what Neil Kinnock does best, a full-blooded rallying speech to the Scottish party faithful. His castigation of the "selfishness and sourness" of the Tory years and his rhetoric about a Britain "free of the fear of falling ill, free of the fear of walking a dark street at night, free of the fear of being old and lonely . . . " secured the Saturday morning headlines

33 REPORT (1882)

The Tories chose to open a day later with John Major's speech to an edgy Conserva-tive Central Council in Torquay, hoping for equal dom-ination of Sunday's head-lines. Ministers now acknowledge a tactical mistake: the speech was always likely to be swamped, as it proved to be, by the deluge of opin-ion polls on the first weekend after the election was called.

Labour's campaign experience showed. The youthful Conservative Central Office team, which has given new snap to Tory campaigning, may be a little too televisionoriented. They had set great store by the question and answer "people's confer-ences" in which the prime minister is meeting voters in a more intimate atmosphere. However, the first of these, on Sunday, after The Times had blown the secret on Saturday, proved not to be the sensation that they had

As one of the Kinnock team put it yesterday: "In a close election, it is dominating the news which matters." Again, on Sunday, the news story proved to be the preview of John Smith's "shadow budget, unveiled the next day to ensure Labour's domination of the headlines for the fourth day running. The Major talk-ins, suffering from the fatal flaw of invited audiences, were a sketch-writer's curio and a good



picture, not the stuff of which real news is made.

Labour may, none the less, have played into Tory hands. A basic rule in campaigning is to lift high in the agenda the subjects on which you do well. For Labour, that means health, education and public services. Instead of playing to those strengths, Labour has gambled. Rattled by Tory tax campaigns in January, which wiped out an earlier Labour poll lead, Mr Kinnock and his colleagues decided to risk tackling the tax issue head on, putting up the reassuring John Smith with all the budget panoply that they could muster.

They gambled that they would fetch in votes where they needed them by taking 750,000 people out of tax

with raised allowances in contrast to the Tory budget 20p tax band that helped four million lower earners but gave them rather less.

The most vulnerable point in Labour's tax armoury was protected: they dropped plans for a tax on savings income exceeding £3,000 a year. However, after agitated debate in Labour's senior ranks, they decided not to water down or phase in the national insurance changes that would hit everyone earning more than £21,000 a year. Tory-supporting tab-loids had a field day with stories about the potentital destruction of middle-class living standards.

The Conservatives, who had taken a tactical decision not to bring out their mani-

festo, as they could have done, on the day of Mr Smith's shadow budget, were convinced that they had taken the right decision. They believe that Labour has planted thoughts that will count against them as voters finger their wallets on the way to the polling booths. The Tory camp was happy to leave Labour with headlines such as the Daily Mail's "If you make it, they'll take it".

Spare a thought for the Liberal Democrats, who al-

ways have to struggle to get their noses in. They had fixed Monday for their man-ifesto launch. When relegated to the "other events today" item in many bulletins, after lengthy analysis of Mr Smith's offering, they surely regretted their timing.

But, in my experience, the things that don't work on television (this bit doesn't) are the things which were not contrived. The impromptu

seat, John in glasses, to Brixton, John in glasses, to

hole everybody . .

struck it out.

brace a coded plea for sexual toleration. Reviewing such a text, Margaret Thatcher

would have sidelined the pas-

sage with the query: "What is this supposed to mean?", and

Then we see Mr Major shaking hands with Nelson Mandela with a fishmonger,

and with President Bush.

There is a burst of Purcell. We enter the doors of Num-

ber 10. Mercifully, the prime

minister has put down his

'A now or never time for Scotland'

This is a now or never time for Scotland — time to stand up and be counted. Sean Connery, actor and member of the SNP

They're proven, they're prac-tical, they're radical. They're the best future for Britain's

Kenneth Clarke on Conservative education proposals

Every other party has sucthan relying on values and ideas.

Michael Meadowcroft, former Liberal MP, who will stand for

They are making proposals now to make changes to which they would never never subject their own children. Neil Kinnock, on Conservative A repeated B-movie with no

thrills or surprises. Doug McAvoy, general-secretary of the National Union of Teachers, on the Conse

Everyone knows cosmetic changes simply do not do the trick. It is like putting lipstick on a pit-bull terrior. What is underneath is still pretty ugly. And pretty vicious. Peter Lilley, trade and industry

secretary, on Labour's trade union policy London is becoming a significant asset for the Liberal Democrats while it remains a potential drag factor for Labour

Paddy Ashdown in London I'm not sorry that I shall

never be seeing some of it again. A great deal of it is deceit and hypocrisy. Sir Charles Irving, retiring Tory MP for Cheltenham, on the House of Commons

The classic ingredients for recovery are in place. Chancellor Norman Lamont on the BBC's World at One

The figures are disappointing, but I don't think its right to say that there are no signs of an end to the recession. Chancellor Norman Lamont on Channel Four news

The impediment that lies between us and people beginning to reinvest and lift out of recession is the general election result. John Major in Lincolnshire

I was unemployed and I remember vividly what it was looking for a job often vainly and your afternoons wondering what would happen the next day.

John Major in the Conservative party political broadcast to be shown tonight



be an avalanche of applications for grant-maintained

My dad likes you best, better

Tim Eggar, education minister

One poll victory does not make Kinnock's summer

By Ivor Crewe

HAS Labour made the decisive break? Labour's 5 per cent lead in the Times/Mori poll is its largest in any poll since early January. If repeated on election day it would give the party a small but secure overall majority of 19 seats on the assumption of a uniform swing and of 11 seats if local factors help the minor parties. Mr Kinnock would reach Downing Street without the help of the smaller parties and would probably

stay there for five years. But the results of a single poll must be treated cautiously. There are four reasons for Walworth road to keep the champagne bottles firmly

First, the 5 per cent lead can easily be explained by sampling error. The average of the last eight polls suggests that party support since the Budget has been running at Conservative 39.3, Labour 40.3, Liberal Democrat 15.8. The Mori poll is within the standard 3 per cent margin of error for each of the parties. It may be significant that com-pared with last week's Mori poll for The Times Labour support has risen at the expense of "Others" while Conservative and Lib-Dem

support has stayed the same. Secondly. Mori repeated many of the questions it asked in its previous poll for The Times last week. The replies are almost invariably within a percentage point or two of last week's, which suggests that public opinion has barely changed. The only shifts of opinion of even marginal significance are increases in the

proportion who say that the most important issues affecting their vote are the management of the economy (up from 11 to 15 per cent) and taxes (up from 10 to 13 per Both are issues on which the Conservatives have a small but stable lead over Labour as the best party.

Thirdly, no event has taken place that could plausibly explain a sharp surge in Labour support. The interviewing for the Mori poll was conducted on Monday before most respondents could have learned about Labour's "shadow budget" or the Liberal Democrats' manifesto. A Harris poll for the Daily Express did half its interviewing on the 16th and reported a 3 per cent Tory lead. At least one of the polls is inaccurate, but

there is no telling which. It does not appear that Labour's most publicised pledge since the budget (and before Mori did its interviewing) - to restore the 20p income tax band to 25p could be repsonsible for its 5 per cent lead. Mori found that voters divided 47 to 31 per cent against abolition of

the 20p tax band.

government.
At least two more polls showing an increased and similar Labour lead are needed before the City sells utility stocks and the Kinnocks

think about new curtains. Ivor Crewe is professor of government at Essex University.

	Dec 1991	Jan 1992	Feb 1992	March 1992	(April 1987)
	1991	1334		1992	136/
Improve	24	31 32	30	35 32 ·	(35) (32) (21)
Stay same	31	32	31	32 '	(32)
Get worse	41	32	32	21	(21)

Swept away by a fuzzy blue avalanche

Deep in the heart of their Smith Square headquar-ters, the Tories have built a bunker out of leftover pieces felt was part of a bulk order for their Blackpool conference, which featured a monster fuzzy-felt podium and a 100-yard fuzzy-felt wavy wall. The bunker is for campaign press conferences. Tuesday

was John Major's first. Stage, table and backdrop were all in the blue felt. The carpet being blue through-out, the chairs blue as well and the ceiling completely covered in blue fabric, the overall effect for journalists was of being trapped in an

ice-cave. From one end of the cave. Mr Major read a long prepared statement about education policy, with dramatic moments such as: "And I'm also very pleased we now have a pay review body" (very pleased?), and Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, took us through just a few of the "39 steps to higher

standards" he proposes.
It was 8.30am. To get in, I had been obliged to submit my bicycle crash-helmet for X-ray. There was no free coffee. If you can imagine sitting in a fuzzy-felt ice-cave with an X-rayed crash helmet at your feet and no coffee, being lectured by Kenneth Clarke on his 39 steps to



higher standards, then you will share my sense of fantasy. The best we can say is that Mr Major took questions with pleasant informality, and poise: the worst, that it was dull.

The avalanche was the bright spot. This was the "avalanche of applications for grant-maintained status" which would sweep down, Mr Clarke predicted, once the Tories had won the

Mr Major, whose prose ends to caution where Mr Clarke's tends to swage looked a little flustered at the prospect of an avalanche. Asked by a journalist how the phenomenon would be faced,

he hesitated. "The avalanche will come over a period." "A flood," Mr Clarke added, helpfully. We considered the concept of by staged flooding

Minds moved to the next event: a press preview of the latest party political broad-cast: The Journey — a Film of John Major, directed by John Schlesinger. You can watch this tonight.

"It won't be a re-run of *Char*iots of Fire," Chris Patten, the party chairman, said, try-ing to eat a bun gracefully in front of six whirring television cameras. "Can I go to the loo first?"

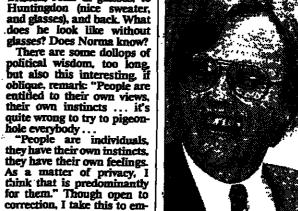
In fact, the film was an answer to Hugh Hudson's Kinnock — the Movie and, though different, effective. Mr Major emerges as a less grey, more interesting man. It gives him depth.

After an establishing shot Aof Mr Major in a car, the hero buys a pound of tomat-oes: "Can I have a pound of those tomatoes? Nice to see you." This is to prove that peas are not his only vegeta-ble. He then toys with the idea of buying a pound of kippers. Mr Major is returning to his roots.

Can we turn left into At-

lantic Road?" We are shown his first house. Later we see his second house ... It's still there. It's hardly changed." So the prime min-

"Is it still there? It is. It is! ister had not checked up on this before arriving with full camera crew! We giggled.



It is no good a Chancellor talking about tax handouts if the enterprise culture dies. David Mellor, Treasury chief Secretary

than John Major. Gary, aged seven, Kinnock After the election, there will

MP happy to leave

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'deceit' behind By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

ALL those hopeful candidates wearing out their shoe leather on the election trail to Westminster may ponder today the sobering words of one retiring MP. The House of Commons is dismissed as a forum of "absolute deceit and hypocrisy" by Sir Charles Irving.

never be seeing some of it again," Sir Charles said after his fourth term as Conservative MP for Cheltenham. "When I was elected in 1974, I rated the House of Commons a very civilised place in its behaviour. I think behaviour has deteriorated a lot since then.

Commons committee.

"I'm not sorry that I shall

Sir Charles, aged 68, never achieved ministerial office. A

former hotelier, his highest

profile was as chairman of the He said that his worst per-

iod as an MP was in 1974. "We practically had a hung Parliament and thank God I shall never be part of one again," he said. "In those days, we were dragged into the House from our hospital beds to vote because the balance was so close."

The Tory candidate to succeed Sir Charles is John Taylor, a black barrister whose selection caused a dispute in the local party. The Liberal Democrat candidate is Nigel Jones, and Labour's is Pam

Ichanges would

M now

never time for

Scotlan

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vestments would be ignored. rates that depress enterprise." the Liberal Democrat leader is also planning a big increase in taxes on the better off. It wants a top tax and National Insurance rate of 50 per cent on earnings above 550,000. The figure is betax levied by the Conserva-

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Battle over economy sharpens

Ministers line up to attack Labour's 'vindictive' budget

BY ROBIN OAKLEY AND NICHOLAS WOOD

THE battle over the economy sharpened yesterday as Neil Kinnock accused the Conservatives of being a "do nothing appear to say they oppose privatisation, yet they appear to ignore £8 billion of privatigovernment in the face of the recession. John Major and Paddy Ashdown both criticised Labour's shadow sation receipts for 1992-3. Would they cut spending by budget, with Mr Major say-E8 billion or increase taxes by ing that it was vindictive.

As new official statistics confirmed Britain's falling production, Gordon Brown, Mr Major told a London press conference that the chancellor's budget the shadow industry minister. would hold back economic recovery and deter young predicted a further 500,000 people from entering the pro-fessions. Those hit would not increase in unemployment this year unless policies were be the "silk top-hatted rich" of changed. Britain, he said, was losing a job every 12 seconds of the working day. Labour demonology but headteachers and their deputies, senior nurses, police serwith a business going under geants and family doctors. every three minutes.

Mr Kinnock said that Tory Mr Smith had "scrapped a policies had put the economy into reverse. The Tory party that brought the recession low tax band and introduced a high tax band", replacing incentives with penalties for success, he said. "He introstill has no positive plans to pull Britain out of it," he said. duced the largest ever in-"In the face of a collapse in crease for the middle class on investment, skill shortages, middle incomes - not rich rising unemployment, record people but people on relativebusiness failures and rockly modest incomes — that we bottom confidence, they do nothing. They have not a single useful initiative to offer have ever seen in this country." Labour's plan to scrap the £21,000 ceiling on nat-ional insurance contributions the economy in recession." would cost primary school headteachers £560 a year, Mr Major called John Smith's shadow budget "vin-dictive and self-defeating". secondary school heads

saying that it would create a

ed in its calculations when it

was opposed to selling off

state assets. They also ac-

cused the Opposition of

breaking a pledge not to take money from 4.5 million pri-

vate pension holders, who

PADDY Ashdown yesterday joined the attack on Labour's

budget propesals by dismiss-

ing them as a "timid mouse"

that would do nothing to end

sion would continue, vital in-

and many people would still

have to pay swingeing tax

However, the centre party

tween the 40 per cent income

tives and the effective 59 per

Under Labour, the reces-

the recession.

under the proposals.

brain drain. Middle income £517 and GPs £1,700. earners, he said, would face "Quite apart from these figan unprecedented tax seizure ures, what sort of opportunity and incentive does that give Other ministers sought to the young people who seek to pick holes in Labour's tax and improve their position and spending programme, arguthese professions in the ing that the "phoney budget" was looking more threadbare future? What sort of signal does it give them as to whethby the minute. They targeted er they are best to ply their trade and offer their skills to the £8 billion of privatisation proceeds that Labour includthis country or to take their

£1,550, hospital registrars

skills abroad?" Mr Major also attacked Labour's plan to scrap the 2. per cent rebate for 4.5 million private pension holders who have opted out of Serps. Their average income was only E9,700 a year.

have taken out plans under new laws since 1988. Tony Newton, the social security secretary, said that Mr Smith had failed to clear Chris Patten, Tory party chairman, said that Labour's his "raid" on pension holders with Michael Meacher, the supposed commitment to the government's borrowing tar-get did not add up. "They" shadow social security secre-

tary, who had promised that there would be no losers. Mr Major added: The essential point of the classless society is that it provides a proper ladder for people to move up, with incentives, opportunity and choice. Mr Smith has at the end of the ladder not an

incentive, but a penalty." At his morning press conference in London, Mr Kinnock would not be drawn on how quickly unemploy-ment would fall under a Labour government, saying: There is no switch that can be thrown to bring the economy from long recession into immediate recovery." Mr Smith also refused to put a time scale on how soon Labour's prosals would dent the jobless figures.
Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, interviewed on

the BBC's The World at One, said that the latest manufacturing output figures, published yesterday, were disappointing. "We always knew this period between January and the end of last year was a difficult period for business, but there are more encouraging signs since then, more up to date. It is true the classic ingredients for recovery are in place.

We have consumer figures for spending that are really quite good. They have been showing a gradual and modest increase. I have always said that consumer spending is vital to the upturn. Con-sumer spending will be absolutely clobbered under Labour party taxation

Asked if the economy had reached the bottom, he said: 'We will not know precisely when the bottom was reached until we have the GDP figures we have not yet got." Asked if recovery had started, he said: "I would not accept that the only thing to look at is manufacturing. You have to look at the total economy."

Anatole Kaletsky, page 14 Diary, page 14 Leading article



Investment aim: Marjorie Mowlam, Labour's City spokesman, who says her party can tackle the recession

Business help promised

By ROBIN OAKLEY

A LABOUR government would immediately set up a small firms investment scheme for manufacturing and give small firms assistance in becoming exporters, Gordon Brown, Labour's industry spokesman, said yes-terday. Firms would be given grants of up to 25 per cent of the cost of investment in pro-duction technologies, includ-

ing information technology.
The scheme, limited to £40 million, would run initially for six months.

Mr Brown also told a London press conference that in the first year of a Labour gov-ernment, regional develop-ment agencies would be created in England and those in Scotland and Wales would be strengthened. Labour Leading article would begin "a new pro-and letters, page 15 gramme for clearing industri-

al dereliction and preparing new industrial sites to encourage new inward investment to our regions". Banks and fi-nancial institutions would be "invited" to work with development agencies to boost

long-term industrial invest-

ment in the regions. Mr Brown said that, with the 1992 single European market in mind, Labour would offer special export advice to small and medium-size firms by creating regional ex-

port services.

Promising to reinvigorate a "do-nothing department of trade" Mr Brown said that Labour's proposals for new fiscal incentives and grants would begin a new investreverse the fall in manufacturing industry since 1979. The small business plan was part of Labour efforts yes-

terday to counter the cool response from business to John Smith's shadow budget. City analysts have expressed doubt about Labour's investment proposals, agreeing that companies might bring forward investment but suggesting that costs to the Exchequer would outweigh any benefits. The Institute of Directors said that the manufacturing investment initiative might only suck in imports. Labour's tax package was dis-missed by City analysts as likely to deter inward

Neil Kinnock told the press conference that Labour's budget was "responsibly re-

than the Tory Budget to being undermined by a sig-nificant rise in imports. He said: "Because of the way we have directed a great deal of our budget reallocation to pensioners, families with children and those on belowaverage incomes, the likelihood is that they will be spending on necessities." These were less import-prone.

Marjorie Mowlam, Labour's City spokesman, said that Ernst & Young, the accountantcy firm, had put Labour's budget through the Treasury computer model and found that, although investment next year would be 3.5 per cent under the Conservatives, it would be 5.1 per cent with Labour's package. "It is this which will make the difference in pulling us out of recession," she said.

Beith challenge to Labour

Alan Beith, the Liberal Dem ocrat Treasury spokesman, challenged the Labour leadership yesterday to spell out its plans for the estimated £11 billion of privatisation re-ceipts, mainly from the sale of some of the remaining shares in British Telecom and British Gas (Sheila Gunn writes)

He cited the failure of John Smith, the shadow chancellor, to disclose his plans for the existing programme of share sales and further privatisation as an example of the unanswered questions in

Labour's budget.
"The largest hole in Labour's arithmetic is their failure to say how they will make up for the £11 billion of privatisation receipts the government will receive." Mr Beith said. "Liberal Democrats are prepared to sell the government's remaining shares in the privatised utilities, but Labour's policy requires them to keep those shares."

Families 'will gain' in budget

Labour's shadow overseas development minister. Ann Clwyd, said that independent analysis showed 82 per cent of Welsh families would gain from John Smith's alternative budget — and only 5 per cent would lose out. She highlighted the plight of low income families in her

Cynon Valley constituency which official statistics say is one of Britain's most deprived

"More than 60 per cent of households in the valley are having to manage on £4,000 a year or less. That is real poverty in UK terms and the effect of unemployment and the rundown in services like health has been devastating."

Revolution in training

A training revolution is tak-ing place, claims Michael Howard, the employment secretary. He said in Birmingham that government spending on training had increased by two and a half times the rate of inflation, employers' investment in training was also at a record high, and the new national network of training and enterprise councils was ensuring that training was

Tax changes would take middle road

BY NICHOLAS WOOD AND JILL SHERMAN

LIBERAL MEW

cent proposed by Labour. The higher tax take from the better off will be used to pay for a increased benefits for pensioners, families with children and those caring for sick or disabled relatives.

The long-term aim is to merge the tax and benefits system and to create an income floor worth at least £12.80 a week for all, whether they are in work or not. The money would be paid to mothers who stayed at home to look after their children. The centre party would also encourage employers to give working mothers tax-free

child care vouchers. The Liberal Democrats intend to scrap the £21.000 earnings limit on National Insurance contributions (Nics) of 9 per cent and merge Nics with income tax to produce a unified tax "collected and administered together and paid on the same income,

vestments, capital gains or To raise extra money for education, the basic rate of income tax would be raised to 26 per cent, making a com-bined rate of 35 per cent for most people. The manifesto estimates that 80 per cent of taxpayers would be on that

whether from earnings, in-

The better off face sharply increased taxes. On earnings above £33,000 the combined

rate would be 42 per cent (33

per cent income tax and 9 per cent Nics). The top rate of 50 per cent (41 per cent plus 9 per cent) would cut in above £50,000 a year.

savers will not pay the 9 per cent NI element on their incomes. Special provisions will also ensure that those on modest incomes most of which comes from investments, such as people who have been made redundant, do not pay the 9 per cent on their savings," the manifesto

The gross cost of the benefit proposals would be £4.3 bilion in the first year, rising to £5.9 billion in the second year, but all of that would be offset by savings from tax

MEDIAWATCH by Brian MacArthur

Smith scores a hit on the press That was why a collective

Suddenly the whole tenor of the election campaign has changed. Until Monshudder rippled through the journalists assembled to hear John Smith deliver his day, thanks to the lavish budget on Monday when he expense accounts provided by their long-suffering proannounced proudly that evprietors for "entertaining contacts". Fleet Street jourerybody earning under £22,000 a year would be better off. It didn't take long nalists had been used to for the implication to sink in living as if they were rich on the political backs. Anya company car, the odd body earning more than lunch at the Savoy, an an-£22,000 was therefore nual free holiday in the Bagoing to be worse off -- and hamas from the travel edi-Fleet Street journalists (who tor - on what they have command average salaries always considered rather of well over £30,000) are not meagre salaries. only going to be seriously worse off but many will also get caught by Mr Smith's

> earnings over £36,375. Only half-jokingly one of John Smith's aides had suggested that when journalists stood up to ask questions about the Smith budget they should not only state their name and paper but also their salary. That wasn't necessary. All any reader of The Daily Telegraph had to do yesterday to get the message was to note the inverted commas in its main front page headline: Labour seeks to raise tax on "better off". People like us? "Bener off"? You

must be joking. "This is an

attack on engineers, doc-

proposed 50p tax band on

tors, middle managers and small businessmen, not just pop stars and dukes", sniffed the Telegraph leader writer without mentioning the fate of its own well paid journalists.

The same point was put with stark clarity and what almost looked like sorrow in The Independent, whose founders have risen from the ranks to become millionaires thanks to the Thatcher years. Labour "says that it is fair

for the rich to pay more for

better pensions and child benefit", it said. "But how many people on £30,000 (1.75 times average earnings) with a family and big mortgage think of themselves as rich?" If Labour failed to oust this "unpopular" government, The Independent added, it would largely be because Mr Smith refused to think again about imposing taxes of "unprecedented severity" on middle-class incomes.

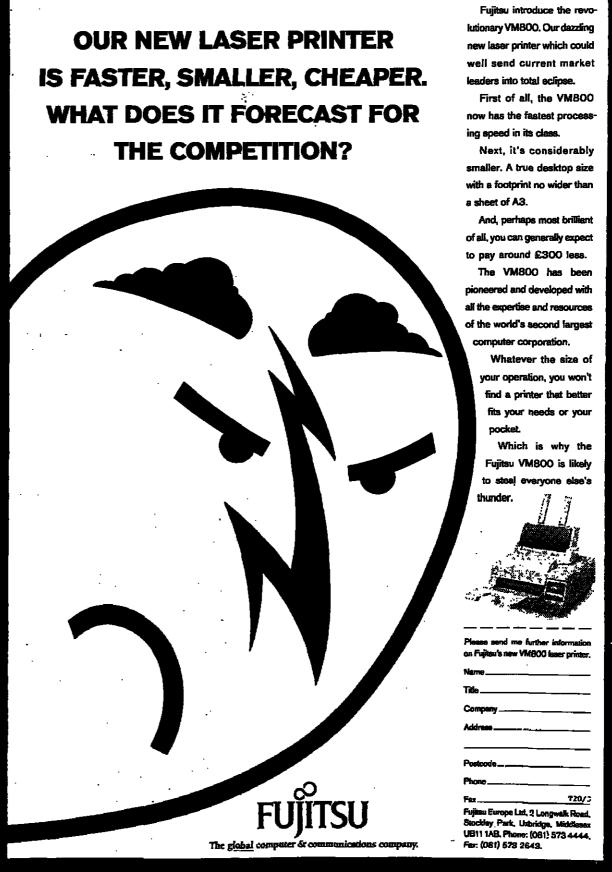
t the last election, The A Independent maintained its independence by refusing to endorse any party and it has so far given no chie - except for that word "unpopular" - to its inten-

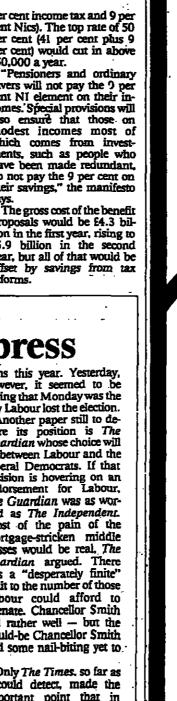
saying that Monday was the day Labour lost the election. Another paper still to declare its position is The Guardian whose choice will be between Labour and the Liberal Democrats. If that decision is hovering on an

endorsement for Labour, The Guardian was as worried as The Independent. Most of the pain of the mortgage-stricken middle classes would be real. The Guardian argued. There was a "desperately finite" limit to the number of those Labour could afford to alienate. Chancellor Smith did rather well - but the would-be Chancellor Smith had some nail-biting yet to.

important point that in most of the country outside London a pay packet of £22,000 a year was high. "The £40.000-a-year threshold for Mr Smith's top band of 59 per cent taxplus-national-insurance is more than the average headmaster or country solicitor earns."

Media. L&T section





Only The Times, so far as could detect, made the

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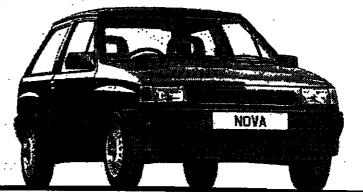
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Silence over foreign policy hides a strong Tory hand in the campaign



MY MAR

Hurd: one of strongest cards in Tories' pack

Douglas Hurd may have a frus-trating election. He is one of the Tories' strongest cards, but he may not have the chance to show all his strengths.

Foreign policy is unlikely to be a central issue of the campaign. There could, of course, be a surprise crisis that might favour the Tories — although military action: over Iraq is not expected in the next three weeks and the next moves against Libya over the Lockerbie bombing are likely to involve a United Nations resolution cutting off air traffic. Presi-dent Bush is unlikely to time any air strikes to suit the British, rath-

er than the American, election. Mr Hurd is not a natural headline-grabber. His style appeals more to the thinking than the drinking classes—one reason why he trailed in the Tory leadership election in November 1990. Last Friday, at the Conservative central council in Torquay, he jokingly wondered whether he was the slow movement, or perhaps the meat in the sandwich, when his speech was put between Michael Hes-eltine's and Jeffrey Archer's. His

RIDDELLON THE ELECTION

campaign role will be as the voice of reasoned debate, slightly above the party fray, in contrast to the barnstorming Mr Heseltine. To his amusement, Mr Hurd has been told by John Major that he "should not get into the gutter" an unlikely prospect. Although voters may soon be fed

up with arguments about tax and the economy, they are unlikely to get much chance of tiring of de-bates about foreign policy. Only one joint television discussion has been arranged and Labour is not planning any news conferences on the issue. That makes sense for Labour and is frustrating for the Tories. Recent Mori polls show that barely I or 2 per cent of voters cite foreign policy or Europe as among the two or three most important issues. The Tories have enjoyed a large advantage as the best party to handle these issues, and Mr Hurd is strongly preferred

These personal qualities matter since the choice over foreign policy is as much one of people as of policies. This is, in part, because the broad approaches of the two parties have converged following Labour's switch to embrace the European Community and to accept the retention of a nuclear deterrent. Even on Europe, the contrasts can be exaggerated. Both parties have made enlargement of the Community a priority. The Tories have turned their rejection of the social charter into a grand symbol of their opposition to Jacques Delors' federalism, and of Labour's willingness to accept them, but the differences are mainly limited to mandatory new requirements on business.

Labour's five-point plan for the EC from July would undoubtedly move EC policy more in an interventionist direction, on the social charter, a new Community strategy for growth and an environmeninitiative, than the Tories' would. But it does not represent an irrevocable step towards political

union. On economic and monetary union, the two parties are nearer than they like to pretend. For the sake of party unity, the Tories say that they will not decide until the late 1990s whether to join a single currency, while Labour's commitment in principle to participating is qualified by its insistence that Parliament will have the final say. At the time the decision will depend on whether the convergence conditions have been achieved.

Asked about differences other than Europe, a senior Labour official merely listed higher priorities for human rights, for disarmament talks among the eight main nuclear powers, greater democracy in Hong Kong and environ-mental protection in Antarctica. In practice, what often matters

more is the response to unforeseen crises and handling of negotia-tions; experience, judgment and a sure touch rather than promises. Here, as all polls show, the Tories have a clear advantage. They can, and often will, point to the successes of the Major/Hurd team in

Kurds, the Commonwealth sum-mit, support for Boris Yeltsin and

the Maastricht summit. The Tories emphasise the need for such experience in the light not only of the British presidency of the EC but also of several other international meetings in the second half of the year.

While all prime ministers tend over time to become increasingly interested in foreign affairs, Neil Kinnock would initially be bound to concentrate on domestic issues and rely heavily on his foreign secretary. The differences between Mr Hurd and Mr Kaufman could hardly be greater. Mr Hurd has always looked the part as foreign secretary, the job he always wanted and was for long denied by Margaret Thatcher. He is a reassuring figure, the ultimate safe pair of hands, seldom showing emotion and viewing international upheavals through the detached and slightly world-weary prism of an historian.

By contrast, Mr Kaufman has an infallible knack for irritating dealing with the Gulf war, the opponents and those who do not

know him. He is the extreme case of a politican behaving differently in private and in public. In private, he is charming, witty and well informed. In public, he never undersells, expressing outrage and maximising differences to the point of acrimony. He has good judgment, as he showed in masterminding the change in Labour defence policy, but he does not always show it publicly. He is an unsympathetic performer on television; we will not see much of him on our screens during the election.

Senior diplomats, who were delighted when Mr Hurd took over from Mr Major, often express dismay at the prospect of Mr Kaufman as foreign secretary, although he has recently had contacts with senior officials at the Foreign Office. While they might be disturbed by Mr Kaufman's often acerbic style, they would be wrong to underrate his ability.

But in any choice of foreign secretaries, Mr Hurd has the edge as one of the pillars of the government

Peter Riddell

TED BATH

Ulster Tory offers policy contrast

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

LAURENCE Kennedy, who has the best chance of being the first Northern Ireland Conservative MP, yesterday outlined his election strategy and views on the future of the province, which differ sharply from the party mainstream. At a press conference at a

seafront hotel at Bangor, County Down, Dr Kennedy — who escaped a republican murder attempt last November — claimed that his vision of the future was in harmony with most Conservative

thinking. He said he wished to see Northern Ireland governed in exactly the same way as the rest of the United Kingdom, with local government structures no different from those of Wales, Scotland and the English regions. He wants legislation by Orders in Council scrapped and re-placed by ordinary bills, and he wants to see the setting up of a select committee at Westminster. He said he did not agree with the search for a new legislative devolution administration in Belfast but would seek to take part in

Liberals

to contest

74 seats

By BILL FROST

yesterday as the unrecon-

schismatic Liberal Demo-

crats. "It is very sad we went

our separate ways after the merger with the SDP," he

said. "But all our warnings

are illiberal, bland, cen-

tralised and in many ways in-

distinguishable from the other two parties." he added.

'In the event of a hung partia-

ment they will shift and fudge

on electoral reform. Quite

simply, they will do anything for power."

Mr Meadowcroft said that

the Liberal manifesto was one

of the most radical docu-

ments to be put before the

electorate in decades. By com-

parison, Paddy Ashdown's

policies could have been con-

cocted by the Conservatives.

'The Liberal Democrats

have come true.

further inter-party talks if elected. He believed his presence would itself change the agenda for those talks.

Dr Kennedy, who is hoping to wrest the predominantly middle-class North Down constituency from Jim Kil-fedder, the Ulster Popular Unionist, claimed none of the above conflicted with Conservative thinking. "That is all acceptable within Conservative policy and you will not find a Conservative minister saying it is not," he said.

He argued that official policy stated merely that the party wished to see more power and responsibility returned to lo-cally elected representatives in Northern Ireland and that it was no more specific than that. In his support, he quoted integrationist remarks made in the past six months by Douglas Hurd. the foreign secretary. Chris Patten, the party chairman, and Lord Mackay of Clashn, the Lord Chancellor.

However, Dr Kennedy's



Youth vote: Elenor Bonner-



Evans, aged 21, the youngest candidate to be declared for the election. Miss Bonner-Evans, a student union leader, is standing for Plaid Cymru in Swansea East, held by Labour's Donald Anderson with majority of 19,338 in 1987. She is an economics and politics graduate of Univer-sity of Wales, Aberystwyth, and is president of the National Union of Students in southwest Wales. "I don't think my age matters," she said. "If the ability is there, young people have a tremen-dous amount to offer." It is the first election in which she has been eligible to vote.

Fully qualified professional



While Mr Kilfedder, who commands considerable lovalty, remains the favourite, his vote will be split four ways between himself, Dr Kennedy, Addie Morrow, of the Alliance, and Danny Vitty, of the Democratic Unionist party. Mr Kilfedder, Dr Kennedy and Mr Morrow are all broadly Unionist, appeal to a each has a fighting chance. The DUP also believes it can take the seat drawing on natural support for its Paisleyite brand of Unionism in the housing estates of Bangor, and parts of Belfast.

Dr Kennedy has not been ing the house to the police.

views — which bear a strong resemblance to those of Jim Molyneux, leader of the Ulster Unionist party - are clearly at odds with the aims and objectives pursued by Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, during the past two-and-a-half years, which were supported by the prime minister. They emphasise the contradiction at the heart of the decision, rehictantly accepted by some senior figures in the party, including Mr Brooke, to admit Northern Ireland Conservatives to the party and indicate that some might find Dr Kennedy's presence on the back benches a political

Dr Kennedy, aged 44, a consultant specialising in diabetes, is one of 11 Conservative candidates fighting a Westminster election for the first time in the province, but the only one with a realistic chance of succeeding. North Down is a prosperous area to the east of Belfast, sometimes known as the "gold coast", which has been the most fertile ground for Conservatives who are the largest party on the local council with six of the 23 councillors.

when he joined its Edin-burgh Newington branch.

able to return to work at the Royal Victoria Hospital on Falls Road since four members of the republican Irish National Liberation Army tried to kill him last November. They burst into his home at Holywood in County Down and, after tying up his wife Sarah and two children, lay in wait for Dr Kennedy who was returning home from work. The attempt was foiled because Mrs Kennedy pressed a panic button link-



into election jungle

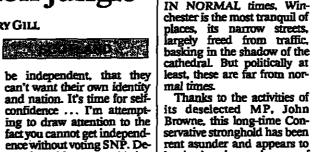
THE Scottish National party played the ace in its electoral pack yesterday by disclosing the contents of an interview with Sean Connery, who earlier this year became the party's most famous member

Mr Connery's first foray into the election jungle, in which he urged Scots to rid themselves of the "old, out-dated union" with England, came as the SNP launched regional campaigns to promote its main policy of independence in Europe. Alex Salmond, party leader, said that Ian Lang, the Scottish secretary, was "Scotland's colonial to promote the secretary of the secretar lonial governor".

The nationalists are etermined to capitalise on the recent resurgence in popularity of independence. In spite of support for independence having fallen from 50 per cent in January to about 37 per cent, the SNP sees Labour and its limited devolution policy as its main target.

Mr Connery said: "I can't

to live outside imagine that anybody who is from Scotland can't want to



The plastic sheeting on the scaffolding surrounding the

According to your view-point, the prowlers might be

Calm city in a Browne study

By JOHN YOUNG

IN NORMAL times, Winaces, its narrow streets largely freed from traffic, basking in the shadow of the cathedral. But politically at least, these are far from nor-

its desciected MP. John Browne, this long-time Conservative stronghold has been rent asunder and appears to be in imminent danger of surrendering to the Liberal Democrats.

cathedral tower shivers in a fitful spring breeze. Inside, the organ thunders and the choir exhorts worshippers and tourists to keep a sharp lookout for the troops of Midian as they prowl around.

the supporters of Mr Browne, those of his official opponent. Gerry Malone, or their political opponents waiting to pick up the pieces.

Whatever people might think of the controversial Mr Browne, he is not a man to give up without a fight. When he announced last week that he proposed to stand as an

independent, a furious party leadership retaliated by with-drawing the whip. Richard Ryder, the government chief whip, wrote to Mr Browne, informing him that he was no longer welcome as a member of the parliamentary party, and that in the "unimagin-able" event of his being reelected, the Conservative whip would never again be extended to him.

Mr Browne's response was that he was consulting his lawyers to determine whether Mr Ryder had, inadvertently or otherwise, interfered with the election process by send-ing the letter after he had already resigned the whip.

Over the past four years Mr Browne's conduct has attracted wide condemnation. First there was the unfortunate business with his former wife, whom he pursued in the courts after she had fallen behind with payments on a £270,000 settlement awarded after their divorce in 1984. Not the way for a gentleman. a public schoolboy and a former Guards officer to behave,

it was said. Then, in 1990, a Commons committee decided that he

close all his outside financial and commercial interests and he was suspended for 20 days. Mr Browne said he had been made a scapegoat and

subjected to a show trial. There have been further ructions, with the reported resignation of the party agent, Pat Phillips, after she was rebuked for allowing an article by Mr Browne to appear in an internal publication. Felicity Hindson, the association chairman, insists that Mrs Phillips is simply on

sick leave. Mr Browne's troubles have continued. Yesterday the association rejected his plea that his name should be allowed to go forward as the candidate before Mr Malone is officially adopted tomor-row. It also became known yesterday that his secretary, Michelle Lawrence, had resigned, saying she could no

longer support him. But whatever the view in Westminster and elsewhere in the country, Mr Browne continues to command a significant degree of local support. Among those strolling in the cathedra! precinct, the attitude seemed to be a suitably Christian "Judge not, that ye be not judged."

VOX POP by Peter Barnard

Cheery Blair just keeps on smiling

The time when the voice of the people, to incorporate this column's title, was heard only silently and behind a curtain on elec-6,000 men enjoy tion day has long gone. In this election, television cov-erage is particularly prone to the phone in device, with the BBC and independent television daily using view

> This can be good fun or a waste of time depending on whether one of these slots occasionally produces a yorker bowled down a telephone line to a politician caught flashing outside off stump. Snow in August may be a better bet.

ITN is setting aside a segment of Lunchtime News for this purpose and yesterday the batsman was Tony Blair, Labour's employment spokesman. No question so far invented can cloud Mr Blair's open countenance: he is undoubtedly one of Labour's top television assets. The only thing disturbing me

was the feeling that Tony Blair answering the elector-ate sounded familiar. the levers of a power previ-ously only dreamt about. The main difference be-

Three hours is a long time in television politics but the solution finally dawned, although not before the memory had played one trick. I kept associating Mr Blair with Playdays, a children's programme that goes out at 10.05am. Yesterday, Playdays began with an item about steam trains in which a fresh-faced boy looking portentous was allowed into a signal box where he pulled on levers and in other ways took up a degree of power previously only dreamt about.

No wonder I was confused. This rather neat piece of scheduling had meant that Playdays followed Election Call, in which the fresh-faced Mr Blair made his first appearance of the day, answering questions from viewers about how he would pull

tween the leading players in these consecutive programmes was that the little boy performed with due solemnity whereas Mr Blair was wearing his familiar smile, an all-weather item impervious to doom. He even recites the alleged-ly dreadful Tory record in a way that suggests this state of affairs would only be a serious problem if Labour

were not a mere three

weeks away from taking over the signal box.

volution with an assembly is a mish-mash. It's indepen-

dence or not at this election."

Scotland..

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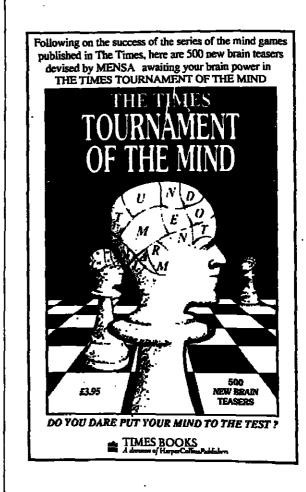
The BBC phone-in will I go out every day in place of Kilroy. This is but a minor change to the sched-ules, replacing a former MP with existing ones who may soon be former. The programme is a "simul-cast", meaning we can listen to it on Radio 4 as well as watching it on BBC 1.

I must not give the ex-

hausted remote control a

rest for the day without some mention of Anthony Howard, the Newsnight pundit who on Monday night produced the fastest bit of television criticism I can recall. I had dashed from a stilted Panorama on BBCl to find Howard on BBC2 being asked by Jeremy Paxman what he had made of the "three chancellors" (Lamont, Smith and Beith), who were interviewed on Panorama by David Dimbleby. This, incidentally, was only the second sighting of a Dimbleby since the election was called.

Howard gave it the thumbs down. "An over-ref-ereed contest" was what he called it, adding that "the set isolated the protagonists". It was indeed an oddly sparse set. In fact, there seemed to be more physical than philosophical distance between the contenders, which goes to show how illusory a television debate can be.





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Major opens door to more selective education in Tory '39 Steps' manifesto

Choice and diversity get top priority

THE prospect of a modest increase in the number of grammar schools was held out by the prime minister yesterday as the Conservatives unveiled the education section of their manifesto a

day early.
They also announced that small schools would be allowed to band together to apply for grant-maintained status outside the control of councils

John Major said he expected that parents in some parts of the country would take advantage of the rule allowing grant-maintained comprehensives to change their character and select their pupils on academic grounds. However, he framed his remarks carefully for fear of lending credence to Labour claims that the Tories plan to revive the 11-plus by the back

"I think there may be some more grammar schools," he said. "We are in favour of choice. This is not going to open the door to huge numbers of grammar schools right across the country replacing the comprehensive

MAIN POINTS IN THE MAIN ESTO

Feets for younger pupils to concentrate on the three Rs. Written exams to dominate GCSEs and A-levels.

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choice, there may well be occasions when schools may perhaps wish to seek grammar school status. Kenneth Clarke, the educa-

tion secretary, made the promotion of choice and diversity in education the main theme of the manifesto and the chief task for a fourth term. He predicted an avalanche of applications for grant-maintained status if the Tories won the election.

He highlighted the mani-festo's vision of parents choosing from a variety of schools suited to the differing apti-tudes and interests of their children. They would include grant-maintained schools of various kinds, city technology colleges, and secondary schools with a strong technological bias.

Mr Clarke said that he wanted to encourage comprehensives to build expertise in subjects including the arts, drama, modern languages or competitive sports.

The pledge to allow small schools to band together to apply for grant-maintained



Child's play: John Major studies work by pupils at All Saints county primary school, Waddington, Lincolnshire, which educates children from the nearby RAF base

status is aimed chiefly at extending the option to small village primary schools.

The manifesto confirms

that popular schools will be given extra funds to build new classrooms and admit more pupils, for which the government has set aside £20 The changes are among

"39 steps to higher standards" that will guide the Tories through another five years in power if they win the election. As the prime minister made clear yesterday, with so many of its reforms newly in place, a re-elected Tory administration would be mainly concerned with implementation of measures such as the national curriculum. regular testing of pupils, information for parents on pupil and school performance and adding to the 200 schools that have opted out of council control.

Labour derided the Tory lans, with Neil Kinnock saying that the 39 steps were "a work of fantasy" but not as good as the John Buchan novel. Mr Major could not be taken seriously on education in the light of his record of perpetual experimentation in schools, the fall in reading standards, crumbling build-ings and oversized class-

Taken in the round, the

present and planned changes to education will revolutionise the system and amount to the biggest upheaval since the 1944 Education Act, Mr Ma-

Blaming "fashionable" educational theories peddled by Labour local authorities for undermining standards, he said that the battle lines were clearly drawn between "Conservative choice and opportunity and socialist doctrine and dogma".

He deflected questions about cabinet ministers sending their children to private schools by saying that his aim was to ensure that everybody "will be able to send their children to state schools with absolute confidence". The freedom to educate a child privately was fundamental to

a free society, he added.

Mr Clarke said that the government planned to change rules that stopped over-subscribed schools from expanding their premises to accommodate extra pupils.

We propose to change the rules. If a popular school can demonstrate it is consistently over-subscribed and if the governors and head want to expand the school, they will, under the new rules, attract the capital necessary for them to expand in response to pop-ular demand," Mr Clarke

Margaret Thatcher predicted

200 schools stand on knife-edge

By John O'Leary, education correspondent

APRIL 9 will either make or oreak one of the great educational experiments of the past 20 years. Opting out will be both a central feature of the election campaign and an immediate concern of the win-

ning party.
A Conservative victory would prompt a torrent of applications for grant-main-tained status, while a Labour government would set about dismantling the fledgeling sector to create a uniform local authority comprehen-

Opting out may have been much slower to take off than

in 1987, but few doubt that a

fourth term for the Conservatives would open the floodgates. With the subject causing such controversy iocally and nationally, many schools have been reluctant to rock the boat until the political outlook is more settled.
Only 200 of the 25,000 state schools have opted out so far, but the Grant-Maintained Schools Foundation has had enquiries from 2,000 more. Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, expects so many to apply to be grant

maintained that he is planning a new organisation to dminister their budgets. He would like to see all secondary schools opt out in the lifetime of the next parliament, and expects most to do so.

Up to now, enthusiasm for self-government has been restricted to relatively few local authorities. More than half of the 428 parental ballots in the first three years of opting out have taken place in 12 largely Conservative authorities. Labour says that that shows the system is popular only where a school is threatened with closure, or is underfunded; Mr Clarke says that it

As Mr Clarke airily con-

tion vouchers. A beleaguered

prime minister was forced to

retreat and Mr Clarke hur-

There was more straight

talking to come. While many

of his cabinet colleagues

hedged their bets on the night

Mrs Thatcher consulted

them on her chances of win-

ning the leadership election,

it was her young education

the record straight.

reflects the reluctance of parents to take on hostile Labour

Mr Major's plans include further restrictions on councils' campaigning against parents who want a school to opt out. He is also promising that groups of small schools will be allowed to form consortia to opt out, sharing

The Conservatives plans do not include the compulsory ballots favoured by many on the right of the party to speed the process, however. Indeed. Mr Clarke acknowledges that the financial advantages of grant-maintained status are bound to lessen as

Labour and the Liberal Democrats say that assurances of equal treatment for local authority and grantmaintained schools have been broken in order to rescue a failing policy. Grantmaintained schools were always offered 15 per cent extra to buy in services that others received from their local authorities, but they have also been funded for capital projects at four times the rate for local schools.

Opting out on the scale tives would leave local authorities with a much reduced role. Apart from running the rump of schools that choose responsibility for only a few central services, for example catering for special educa-tional needs and transport.

Some authorities are already finding it difficult to run a full service as opting out spreads. Hillingdon, in north-west London, where there are four grant-maintained schools, has told 100 parents, for instance, that it will not be able to place their children for several months, while other have been allotted schools miles from their

Mr Clarke has promised that the education department will never take over the day-to-day running of schools, and he will not replicate the control exercised by local authorities. However, his new quango with regional centres suggests a bureaucra-cy far in excess of the 53 civil servants who are now responsible for the sector.

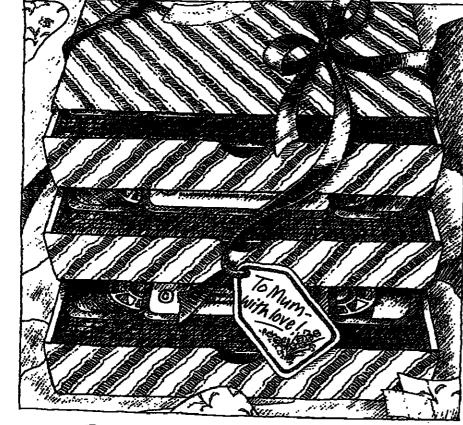
Labour would immediately end opting out for grant-maintained schools which would be offered legal protection from discrimination by councillors as they were handed back to their local authorities.

On March 29th treat Mum to a box without a single calorie.















There's more to discover at WHSMITH.

The loner with a talent for straight talk and surprises By Nicholas Wood, Political correspondent pigeon-holed on political grounds.

KENNETH Clarke could be forgiven a private chuckle yesterday after the launch of the education section of the Tory manifesto. Five years ago, the same event had got the campaign

off to a rocky start as Margaret Thatcher and Kenneth Baker had stumbled over optout schools. Yesterday, as John Major purred his way through the latest prospectus, Mr Clarke could afford to sit back in the comfort of knowing that the Tory schools pro-gramme had been agreed well before thelaunch.

The coherence that Mr Major and Mr Clarke brought to the launch was in part a product of the education secretary's success in bulldozing through over the past 15 months the most awkward aspects of the reforms begun in 1987. Potentially explosive questions about teachers' pay, the content of sensitive subjects such as art, music and history, testing of pupils, examination league tables, the running of the examination and curriculum advisory bodies, and private inspections of schools had all been long defused.

In part, this was a tribute to his political skills and his capacity to bend the Whitehall machine to his will — no small achievement at the only department that ever put Mrs Thatcher in her place.

But it was also evidence of the bond that exists between Mr Clarke and the prime minister. The education secretary, nominally a lowly post in the cabinet pecking order, has pole-vaulted over some of

his more senior colleagues fessed the other day, his first into the six-strong "A" team of cabinet ministers running act on being offered the job of education secretary by Mrs. Thatcher was to tell her he the Tory election campaign. would have nothing to do with her pet project of educa-Mr Clarke has been brack-

eted with Michael Heseltine and Chris Patten as the chief Conservative hitmen and his contributions over the next. fined to the playground.

A QC and Cambridge graduate, his courtroom skills have been sharpened in the

Commons chamber and in frequent tussles with the unions and vested interests. He is a jazz fan and birdwatcher with a weakness for Hush Puppies and his manner places him apart from

many of his more conventional colleagues. Nor is he easily



Clarke: has pole-vaulted over senior colleagues into the forefront of the election "A" team

Slogans tend towards politically incorrect

It's all very well for the To-A ries to use literary-sound-ing phrases like "the 39 steps to better education" when plugging their prom-ises to make us smarter after April 9, but the choice of slogan does make you won-der in the matter of dispens-ing knowledge, who is worse shod than the shoemaker's

Are the well read young researchers at Conservative Central Office not aware that John Buchan, who wrote the famous Richard Hannay adventure story, is now deemed politically unfashionable, accused of being racist for his various references to "fat Jews", "nigger band" and "blue-black dagos"? Worse still, it was the sec-

ond time this week that the Tories have betrayed an educationally misspent youth. Of all people, Aristotle

first hiccup came when Tim Eggar, the education minister, confided the government's programme to break-fasting listeners of Radio 4's Today programme yesterday. Brian Redhead, his interbrian ketthead, his inter-viewer, remarked: "Not long ago you said you could not teach The Thirty-Nine Steps in schools because it was Richard Hannay and it was regarded to be improper. I can't remember why. Mr Eggar also seemed to have forgotten. "We certainly want to make sure that the children get to know litera-

tripped them up first. The

ture," he stammered back. Equally surprising, was Monday's revelation that Aristotle and Major bear the same political birthmark. This was Kenneth Baker's contribution to our national secretary told a newspaper



diarist that he was writing the history of Conservatism "from Aristotle to Major" (is learning curve. The home he expecting to have free

"Aristotle would have been a John Major supporter, no doubt about it," Mr Baker said confidently.

Oh really? You mean the same Aristotle who thought that some people were born to be slaves and that these slaves ranked just that these slaves ranked just the same in their owners' cyes as any other of his pos-sessions? The Aristotle who thought that the husband and father was boss, entitled to rule his family with a regal aloofness? If this

It this skin-deep sloganeering peppers the rest of the Tory manifesto unveiled today, we can expect Silence of the Lambs and Clockwork Orange to become agriculture ministry. policy proposals. And, who knows, the health department might even be toying with Gone with the Wind.

ife-edge

Poll uncertainty is delaying end of recession, Major says

THE prime minister said yesterday that uncertainty over the outcome of the general election was holding back re-covery and predicted that the recession would end after the April 9 poll.

John Major began his general election tour with a trip to Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire, carefully planned to press home the Conservative message on education, their chosen theme of the day. He visited a primary school near Grantham, Margaret Thatcher's birthplace, and the pioneer city technology college in Nottingham opened by his predecessor in

The agenda, however, was soon upset when news of the disappointing January output figures reached the prime minister's entourage and Mr Major found himself having to deny that the recession had cast a shadow over the election campaign. Mr Major said that the output figures were historical and mirrored in many other industrialised

"We are now getting our-selves into a position where we can lift out of recession," he said. "The impediment that lies between us and people wanting to reinvest and move out of recession is the general election result. Once that is over - once we get back with a clear majority people will begin reinvesting. They have liquidated their debt. They will begin to reinvest and out of recession we will come.

He repeated the message at the second of his "meet John Major' gatherings in Nottingham last night. When a restaurant owner in the specially chosen audience in the Albert Hall asked him about the recession and value-added tax levels Mr Major replied: "Most of what the country needs to get us out of recession is in place." Inflation was predicted to fall below 4 per cent, interest rates had fallen, and many people

had cleared their debts. He went on: "The capacity for people to spend is there. What is the missing ingredient? I believe the missing ingredient is confidence is going to happen, who is going to be in charge, what the tax structure will be, and

Party is

sunk by

tax bill

The largest fringe group, the Corrective party, has pulled out of the election. Lindi St

Clair, its leader, said she

could not afford the £25,000 deposits for her 50 candi-

dates. The self-styled Miss Whiplash faces a £60,000 tax

The former madam, aged 33, is urging her 8,500 party

members to vote for the

Liberal Democrats. The Cor-

rective party campaigns to decriminalise prostitution.

Tories best bet

Ladbroke's, the bookmakers,

yesterday reported heavy bet-ting on a Conservative elec-

tion victory, particluarly in the South-east. It shortened

odds to 2/1 on a Tory victory.

the shortest price since the book was opened. Labour went out from 11/10 to 6/4 and the Liberal Democrats

Songs for votes

Beny Williams, the Labour

were quoted at 300/1.

Welsh Office minister.

Pledges taped

what the policies will be. The impediment to that confidence is the general election. When we have had the election and when we have a clear majority, that uncertainty will drift away." Earlier, when asked when the recession would end, Mr Major re-plied: "After the election result - after we are safely back

in Downing Street." After launching the Con-servative education programme, Mr Major flew from RAF Northolt to RAF Waddington near Lincoln. He visited All Saints primary school in the village of Waddington where many of the 274 pupils are the children of RAF personnel.

He explained the purpose behind his visit: "I do not think you can find out what is happening in the schools simply by sitting behind a desk in Whitehall. It is an opportunity to hall. ty to hear what the teachers have to say, to find out the attitudes and feelings in the

Surrounded by children, he spoke of the change in atmosphere in schools compared the time he was a pupil. "School is a much happier place, a much friendlier place. You can see from the faces of the children how much they enjoy being here."

The prime minister said that Conservative policies

for schools, parents and pu-pils. "What matters is the nature and style of education. What matters is the freedom that will be there if schools want to run their own affairs. That is not something that would be there under the other two parties."

He moved on to Nottingham where the Conservatives are defending two marginal seats. Nottingham East, with a majority of 456, is the sixth most marginal in the country.

His arrival at the £13 million Djanogly city technology college was disrupted as the first egg of the campaign was splattered across his pale blue "battle bus". The police arrested one man and a crowd of protesters carrying Socialist Workers party and anti-election alliance banners, greeted him there. The college, one of 13 CTCs, was funded in part by Harry Djanogly, a prominent local businessman. Mr Major saw the library, language labora-tory and the music room where he and his wife Norma were serenaded by a class singing World in Union.

Mr Major's touring team is headed by Sir Norman Fowler, the former cabinet minister, and includes Shirley Trotter, the tour manager, Jonathan Hill, Mr Major's political secretary, Edward Llewellyn, his special policy adviser, and Tim Collins, his chief press officer.

Crime-busters wanted

BY PHILLP WEBSTER

THE prime minister called on celebrities and parents last night to set an example to young people in the bat-tle against crime. John Major urged people with the greatest influence on the young to stop them from falling into the "dreadful pit" of criminal behaviour.

He ruled out any question of a return to capital punishment, and referred to

recent cases in which people who had served long prison sentences had subsequently been found to be innocent. "I think it would have weighed very heavily British public if we had had

capital punishment." Mr Major told an audi-

ence of Tory supporters in Nottingham that one of the biggest mistakes of the past 20 years had been the fail-ure to tackle criminal behaviour at a suitably young age. "I think sometimes we have been so tolerant in understanding crime at an early age that we almost appear to have validated it,"

"One of the most powerful pressures on young people is peer pressure," he said. That should come from "the people they admire, who they follow, the people who loom high in their lives, people who are famous in one form or another or people in their family circle".



Whistle stop: Joan Ruddock, a Labour transport spokesman, distributing leaflets outside Tooting Broadway station, south London

Return to the land of his fathers

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

AS NEIL Kinnock set off round the country on the Red Rose Express to woo pensioners and teachers on the first proper day of campaigning, it emerged that transport had played a vital role in his birthplace. If a ship had been waiting for his grandfather instead of a train Neil Kinnock could be fighting the US primaries instead of the general election.

Touring a day centre for old people in Downend, Bristol, Mr Kinnock told a pensioner that his grandfather had come from Bristol. "He had a terrible row at home and decided to run away to sea. He went down to the docks: it must have been the only day there was no ship going to the United States. He went to Temple Meads station [Bristol] and got a train to South Wales

The first day of the cam-paign started with a flurry of cameras, microphones and tape recorders at Paddington Neil and Glenys boarded the Red Rose, a specially chartered train for a secret desti-

minutes later the train arrived at Bristol Parkway, and journalists were bused to Kingswood, one of the 51 marginal Tory constituencies which Labour needs to win.

A suburban dormitory east of Bristol, it is held by a 7.5 per cent Tory majority. Labour claims that a recent NOP poil shows that it is seven points ahead in Kingswood and the party claims its candidate, Roger Berry, can oust the incumbent, Robert

Mr Kinnock continued the campaign theme of the day, education, with a visit to Staple Hill primary school. Hundreds of children crowded in the playground to see the Labour leader. Cheers of "yes, yes, yes" rose from the sevenyear-olds. But on later inspec-tion the children had only been asked if they welcomed a longer playtime and if they

liked netball and tool The harsh words about John Major's record on edu-cation were reserved for journalists later. "Mr Major," he said, "did not think that qual-ifications counted for much."

Later Mr Kinnock almost gave the game away as he and Glenys Kinnock took over a reading lesson in the school library. Mr Kinnock admitted that Glenys was a teacher in real life. "This isn't real life, this is just pretending." Dai-sy, aged six, said: "I always thought you were pretend."

At the Downend day centre, Mr Kinnock chatted with a number of pensioners. One, Frances East, aged 81. a former Tory supporter, said she intended to vote for Mr Kinnock this time. "I have never voted Labour before, but it is time for a change, time for fresh ideas."

Waving a fond farewell to his aged fans, Mr Kinnock sped back to London on the Red Rose, which astonished west London locals by stopping at Ealing Broadway. As Mr Kinnock sped away in his red Rover, a lone voice shouted "vote Conservative".

Lib Dems look to London

By SHEILA GUNN

PADDY Ashdown exploited Labour's problem of the loony left effect in London yesterday as he toured four constituencies around the capital where the Liberal Democrats have a proven record of success.

His message in Southwark and Bermondsey, Sutton and Cheam, Richmond and Barnes, and Twickenham was to judge the party's candidates on the strength of the Liberal Democrat councillors' actions in recent years.

The party's fortunes depend in part on tactical voting by those who seek an alternative to the Conservatives and recognise that Labour has no chance of win-

ASHDOWN

ning. But for the Liberal Democrats to make a breakthrough, that would need to be backed up by a substantial swing in their favour by dis-

Mr Ashdown and his team launched a policy document Changing London for Good which blamed the housing, transport, pollution and economic problems of the capital on a mixture of Labour and Tory incompetence. Although London and its suburbs did not prove fertile ground for the Liberal party. the new party leadership detects signs of a swing to them in spite of holding only Southwark and Bermondsey.

The party is committed to setting up an elected strategic authority for greater London as part of a system of regional authorities. Mr Ashdown said: "London is becoming a very significant asset for the Liberal Democrats while it remains a potential drag fac-tor for Labour. We expect to see gains and progress in London."

In Richmond and Barnes, where the candidate Jenny Tonge has a strong chance of unseating the Tory MP, Jeremy Hanley. Mr Ashdown's main topic of conversation with children was the party's commitment to setting up an animal welfare commission.

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FOR RESERVATIONS AND FURTHER

Twin ambitions: Labour's candidates include Maria Eagle (left), a trainee solicitor, in Crosby, and her twin, Angela, a trade union official, in Wallasey Old faithfuls go to ground Campaigns take off

by air, road and rail

By Lin Jenkins

candidate in Conwy, has takmessage across in song. Mrs THE cost and lengths - both Williams has teamed up with in miles and terms of logistics her son to woo voters in clubs - to which parties will stretch and community groups in Llandudno. She is trying to to get their messages across were graphically displayed unseat Sir Wyn Roberts, the yesterday. By road, rail and air the politicians tried to sell their manifestos across the country.

A 15-minute cassette tape of John Major, with £20 mil-"edited highlights" of the Labour pary manifesto is being produced later today by campaigners in Cardiff or lion likely to be spent before April 9, took to the air in a specially chartered plane; Neil Kinnock chose an blind and partially sighted InterCity 125 to go to Bristol; voters. Volunteers will record while Paddy Ashdown coma condensed version of the bined canary yellow battle bus with shoe leather. Mr Major, accompanied

by passengers from the media, flew to RAF Waddington, Lincolnshire, for a series of engagements and photo sessions in the county and neighbouring Nottingham-shire. The aircraft will be available throughout the

campaign. The Tories were reticent as to the cost. However, part of ceremony on Blackpool beach, and toasted success the expense is being met by the £4,000 a head fee for with frish Sea water.

LOGISTICS (**)

transport charged to journalists and photographers join-ing Mr Major's tours. Mr Kinnock's Red Rose Express, a 20-year-old 125, is one of several offered for charter by British Rail and will be used twice more dur-

ing Labour's campaign. With an estimated cam-paign budget of £10 million, the Labour party provided all 100 passengers with a full English breakfast on the return trip to Paddington. Mr Ashdown's 60-seat

Volvo coach took to the London streets yesterday fully equiped with televisions, radios, fax machine, photocopier and telephones. Mark Payne, who has organised the whole transport package, refused to disclose the cost.

Forty per cent of the transport costs, in a campaign likely to cost £2 million, would, however, be met by the £4,500 charged to journalists to join the Lib Dem leader up and down the country.

Leaving almost before the party has begun, some of the celebrities who a few

days ago seemed to pledge their souls to the Tories now seem to want to keep their souls to themselves. Nobody said that celebrities were going to be faithful in their political affiliations, even during a tight and keenly fought election campaign, but the speed of their defection must be jolting Conservative Central Office.

Then again, celebrities did not get where they are today by alienating chunks of their public by endorsing only one side in a debate. They know that when they are in a tight corner, etiquette demands that they always offer the other cheek, for a social peck. If it's consistency you want, stick to cake batter.

Some of the famous men and women retreating discreetly from the spotlights are claiming that they were never asked for their support, or sounded out on whether they wished to appear on the all-star list of Conservative voters. So they have disowned the Tories and asked for their names to

The Tories' celebrity chorus line has done a vanishing act and will not reappear until April 10 at the earliest, Joe Joseph has found

Branson, the airline tycoon, is one who has decided that he is not willing to be branded a Conservative sympathiser quite so openly, though this may not have struck John Major as a surprise: Branson makes something of a habit of bailing out of dodgy craft at the last minute just before a crash landing.

Michael Winner, the film director, says that his actress girlfriend, Jenny Seagrove, was surprised by her appearance on the wellpublicised list of 84 celebrities. "She is making a film in southern India at the moment and she won't be here for the election but she has asked her agent to write a letter to Mr Patten," Mr Winner said.

"It was a bit off. They didn't ask her at all. She is not a Conservative supportbe withdrawn. Richard er. she is a floating voter. She

once went to a cocktail party at number I l but it was not a political event." Mr Winner directed the

Death Wish films and is clearly a man who knows how to take revenge into his own hands if he feels unjustly treated. The Tories can just count themselves lucky they didn't put Charles Bronson on the list, too.

The entertainer Lulu was also among those named as an official Blue supporter. She was not in the country yesterday but her agent was unsure of her political sympathies. "It may be a bit like a Christmas card list," she said. "If you have been on it before you are automatically on it again without being asked."

Swimmer Sharron Davies and Irish international footballer David O'Leary are also shy of being named as Tory supporters though they appeared on the list. But all is not lost. Shirley

Bassey, the singer, Paul Daniels, the magician, and Cilla Black, the television personality, are still in the Tories' backing chorus. Or maybe that was the problem.

y incorrec

party's pledges plus an interview with Jon Owen Jones. the Labour candidate in Cardiff Central. Insanely yours Screaming Lord Sutch, the leader of the Official Monster State Claim Raving Loony party, yester-day launched his party's manifesto. Vote Insanity, you know it Makes Sense, in a

Clinton preaches message of fallen man ready for office



Ouestion time: Clinton answering students in Wayne, Michigan

exander praised Bill Clinton. Listen, sisters and brothers." he told his all-black congregation. "God has not made another perfect man since he made Adam, and Adam sinned. If you're looking for

perfection, stop."
The Arkansas governor grinned broadly before takng the pulpit himself. When the pastor mentioned imperfection, he joked: "I started to stand up and shout 'Amen'." It was a moment of light relief after three months of what Jerry Brown, Mr Clinton's rival Democrat presidential nominee, calls a "scandal a week". It did not last. As Mr Clinton marched in a St Patrick's Day parade that afternoon, onlookers

AT CHICAGO'S Union Missionary Baptist Church on Sunday, the Rev Marvin Albusiness to the law firm of his wife, Hillary. He was last week accused of a dubious financial deal involving land in the state.

Last autumn, the Bush campaign team dismissed a putative Clinton candidacy with the single word "women". The governor has since survived so many bullets that he has been variously dubbed the Terminator and the Timex candidate, because "he takes a licking but keeps on ticking". Nothing appears to stop him, and yesterday he was expected virtually to tie up the Democratic nomination by winning the Michigan and Illinois primaries. That would not end Mr Clinton's ordeal. Before he quit the Democratic race, Bob Kerrey predicted that the

Inner strength, luck and shrewd tactics in adversity have propelled Arkansas's governor along the White House road,

Martin Fletcher writes from Chicago

Clinton up this autumn like a 'soft peanut". Already the White House has sent opposition research specialists to Arkansas to scour Mr Clinton's record for an "October surprise". It has approached Roger Ailes, the master of negative advertising who de-stroyed Michael Dukakis in

With Mrs Clinton also an election issue now, rival campaigns openly wonder how he survives. The answer is through courage, luck and shrewd strategic calculation. His inner strength may derive from growing up as inter-

Republicans would open Mr mediary between his battered mother and aggressive, alcoholic stepfather. Equally it could be a factor of Mr Clinton's vaulting ambition. This is a man who put himself back in the Vietnam draft at the age of 23 to preserve his "political viability", who became Arkansas attorney-general at 28 and governor at 31, now a battle-hardened veter-

an of 17 elections in 17 years. Mr Clinton was lucky in the paucity of viable Democratic alternatives, lucky in the mendacious record of Gennifer Flowers, the singer who claimed to have been his lover, and fortunate in the Amer-



ican media's reluctance to destroy him. He : exerts a Kennedyesque charm on reporters. They want to be White House insiders. Having cut down Joe Biden and Gary Hart in 1988, they have also grown wary of their

Above all, Mr Clinton knew what to expect and planned accordingly. He calculated that the public was sick of muckraking, did not want absolute perfection, and would respond to openness. Before declaring last autumn. he and his wife staged a breakfast for Washington reporters and acknowledged that "our relationship has not been perfect" but insisted their marriage was strong.

He has stuck rigidly to basic rules. Wherever possible he has blamed the tabloid press and Republican dirty tricks. He has never look rattied, run from cameras or avoided reporters. He has always appeared to answer questions, even when being evasive. He has admitted general shortcomings but not specifics, never once letting the word "adultery" pass his lips. He tushed on to primetime television to confront the Flowers allegations, himself released the celebrated draft

pointed an independent lawyer to review the land deal. Because he has never publicly panicked, neither have his financial backers. Anticipating the presidential election. his aides have been quietly pressing journalists to scrutinise President Bush's

life more closely. Top Democrats admire Mr Clinton's courage but fear that each successive charge is another bullet hole through which his strength is slowly bleeding. Mr Clinton seeks to turn the barrage of allegations to his advantage. His endurance demonstrates his strength of character and purpose, he argues, and that he alone will be "tough enough to stand up to the garbage the Republicans will throw at you".

President Clinton? page 14

Cheney

linked to

cheques

Big poll turnout is boost for de Klerk

shouted "womaniser" and

"draft-dodger". In a televised

large numbers throughout South Africa yesterday, boost-ing President de Klerk's prospects of winning the crucial "yes" vote he needs in the referendum on constitutional reforms. By late afternoon, the chief referendum officer in Cape Town was predicting that the national turnout would be above 70 per cent.

Officials reported traffic jams and long queues in all 15 regions as voters swamped polling stations as soon as they opened. The turnout indicated that Mr de Klerk's warnings against the dangers of apathy had been heeded. The consensus was that a low percentage poll would favour the right-wing Conservative party, campaigning for a "no" vote. By midday, however, it was already apparent that supporters on both sides were turning out in strength.

More than 7,000 votes had been cast at the Johannesburg city hall polling station before the lunch hour brought thousands more people to join long queues. Cape Town reported 600 voters an hour, and in Durban one queue stretched more than 100 yards into the municipal gardens.

Officials in Bloemfontein, the Orange Free State capital, hurriedly set up additional booths after being inundated by 15,000 voters in the first five hours, and polling stations in the northern suburbs of Johannesburg reported that they were running out of ballot papers. Voting trends at Pietersburg in the northern Transvaal suggested that there would be a record local turnout of more

than 80 per cent. At Parktown, a liberal constituency in Johannesburg, ambulances lined up outside a polling station at a primary school as doctors and nurses escorted patients in wheel-

South Africans flocked to vote in yesterday's referendum, writes Gavin Bell in Johannesburg

chairs, some still receiving intravenous drips. A local agent for the liberal Democratic party said: "I've never seen anything like this. We're processing one person every

Minor scuffles broke out at several polling stations, and two bomb hoaxes briefly halted proceedings in Durban, but no serious incidents were reported. Six uniformed members of the Afrikaner Resistance Movement who used abusive language at Bothasig town hall in the Cape were escorted from the premises by referendum agents.

Peter Soal, southern Transvaal chairman of the Democratic party, predicted a poll in excess of 75 per cent, saying: "We are overwhelmed. The polling booths are besieged." Independent analysts revised their estimates of a "yes" vote upwards from 56 per cent, saying 60 per cent or more was within reach if Mr Soal's prediction was correct.

Informal polls of voters in the Transvaal indicated that the government's campaign had succeeded in driving home the message that a "no" vote would mean economic disaster and sporting isolaations appeared to be swaying waverers.

Optimism was running high in both camps. A Conservative official trying to whip up support in a liberal Johannesburg constituency said: "Ja, we need help here. But we're wiping them out in the eastern Transvaal; 90 per

cent in Bethal were voting 'no' when I left there this

morning."
Gerrit Viljoen, the minister of constitutional development, said it was clear each side had mobilised solid sup-port in its own strongholds. "Obviously there is very strong public awareness of what is at stake. It is difficult to judge the outcome at this stage, but the overall pattern is encouraging so far, and I think we should get at least

Paul Fouche, acting Trans-vaal secretary of the Conser-vative party, said the right-wing offensive would continue irrespective of the referendum outcome. "If we lose, it will be a battle that has been lost and not the cam-paign. We will then fight with more vigour to turn a marginal defeat - because it can be no more than that - into a

Rival leaders traded warnings of chaos and economic collapse until a few hours before polling began. R. F. "Pik" Botha, the foreign minister, told his final campaign rally: "Not a single country in the world would recognise a government based on the policies of the Conservative party. A 'no' vote would cause this ship to sink abruptly, economically, politically, and socially. We dare not take that risk."

Professor Willem Kleynhans, a prominent political analyst, predicted that South Africa was heading for trouble no matter who won. "If be chaos when the black people try to make this country ungovernable. If the 'yes' vote wins, the right wing will become more militant than ever... there is, therefore, the

possibility of a coup." The result of the referendum is being announced in Cape Town this morning.



carried to receive treatment in Jaffa yesterday after a masked Palestin-ian, wielding a sword, ran amok and killed two Israelis and injured a dozen others before being shot dead

MOSHE Arens, the Israeli

defence minister, acknowl-

edged yesterday that Israel's attempt to gain \$10 billion in

American housing loan guar-antees appeared to be on the

Speaking on Israeli radio.

Mr Arens, who is on an offi-cial visit to Washington, said

he thought the chances of

securing the loan guarantees

were dim. He was speaking

hours after President Bush

rebuffed last-ditch congres-

sional efforts to ease the link-

age between the guarantees and a freeze on further build-

ing of settlements in the occu-

The compromise proposed

by some congressmen would have allowed Israel to receive

\$1 billion in loans and still

allow new settlements on the

West Bank and in the Gaza

Strip. Mr Arens said here on

Monday that Israel would

"not beg or crawl for help. We

brink of collapse.

pied territories.

ties were tecnagers in fancy dress who had gathered outside a disco to celebrate the Jewish holiday of Purim (Richard Beeston writes from

attention away from domestic

problems or hopes to topple

Yitzhak Shamir's govern-

ment in the Israeli elections

ment on Monday to a US inspection team visiting Isra-

el to check on the American

claims, Bush administration

officials expressed acepticism

that inspectors would be able to get to the bottom of the

problem and doubted that

Israel would allow much ac-

cess for the team. What par-

ticularly irks Israeli

diplomats here is the way that

the issue has blown up and the press has been used.

The first leak, accusing Is-

rael of selling a Patriot missile

to China, appeared in The Washington Times last week.

This was quickly followed by a leak to the The Wall Street

Journal of a report by the

Despite Mr Arens's agree-

in June

Arens mission fails to win

pledge on US housing loan

FROM JAMIE DETTMER IN WASHINGTON

continued to deteriorate yes-

terday with State Department and Pentagon officials adding to their list of American military technology Israel is alleged to have passed to China, South Africa or Latin

Monday's talks between Richard Cheney, the Ameri-

can defence secretary, and Mr Arens seem to have done

little to quell the flow of leaks

from unnamed officials about

what military items Israel is

meant to have sold to "pari-ah" countries. Yesterday Isra-

el was accused of selling details to China of a highly

sensitive artillery laser-guid-

ance system, known as the Copperhead.

Israeli diplomats insisted

last night that this latest leak

was, like last week's American

accusations over the Patriot missile, politically inspired and intended to embarrass

American-Israeli relations

fied as a merchant, aged 22, from Gaza, who was known to be a follow er of the late Iranian spiritual leader. Ayatollah Khomeini. Police said that they discovered Islamic Resistar

Pollution alert halts capital

FROM AFP IN MEXICO CITY

OFFICIALS closed all chools, ordered partial shutdowns of industry, and warned residents against going out as ozone pollution reached a dangerously high 390 points on Mexico City's 500-point air pollution scale

yesterday.

Polluting industries such as cement and paint companies were ordered to reduce their production by three-quarters as the authorities implemented a phase of their environmental contingency plan. About 75 other industries were told that they must cut back by 50 per cent, and half of all government cars were instructed to stay off the

sued warnings to the popula-tion in radio broadcasts to avoid leaving their homes. Any reading near 400 on the scale is considered dangerous, particularly for children and the elderly, who are most affected by respiratory

affair FROM PETER STOTHARD US EDITOR, IN WASHINGTON RICHARD Cheney, the American defence secretary, yesterday became the most prominent political figure caught up in the House banking scandal.

As senior Bush cabinet members scoured their banking records for possible bounced cheques. Mr Cheney prepared to address an afternoon press conference to explain his conduct. The White House had ordered all officials who had once been members of Congress to examine their accounts. Mr Cheney was a congressman repre-senting Wyoming between 1979 and 1989.

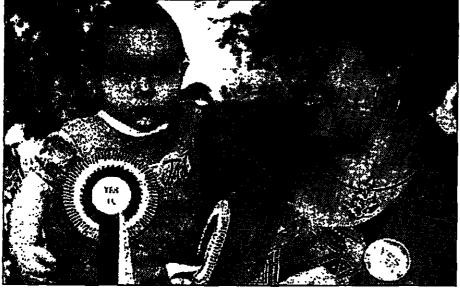
Other names mentioned among a mass of rumours were Lynn Martin, the labour secretary, whose spokesman said that she "may have bounced a cheque or two over the years", and Ed Madigan, the agriculture secretary.

Republicans fear that the involvement of senior Bush officials, however slight, will blimt their ability to use the bouncing cheque issue against the House Democratic leadership. President Bush said: "I am not jumping on any individual. Everyone has his or her own case to make to their constituents or to the

In a separate development in the widening affair, federal assess whether criminal charges might be brought as a result of the bank's practice of honouring congressmen's eneques whether there were deposits to cover the payments or not. Investigators are examining whether members avoided tax liabilities and campaign finance regulations by, in effect, taking unregulated interest-free

loans. A spokesman for the vice-president said Dan Quayle had written no cheques for which insufficient funds were in his account. He has been to the fore among Republicans arguing that the House Bank affair gives an unrepeatable political opportunity to loosen the Democratic hold on Capitol Hill.

Observers in Washington predict survival in the affair for those who quickly show that they were occasional offenders whose carelessness was exacerbated by bank inefficiency. Others, who routinely abused the privilege of House banking and who bor rowed large amounts, may be hard-pressed to explain themselves to an already angry electorate. Once the autumn political campaigns begin, the distinction may become



Tomorrow's man: cradled on his mother's arm. Wessels Cronje, aged one, makes his sympathies clear outside a polling station in Pretoria yesterday

to people and a way could be

found to protect him, he

State Department's inspec-tor-general suggesting that Israel had exported other adare a small people, but we are Jerusalem. They daim James vanced US arms technology a proud people." He said the Baker, the American Secresettlements in the occupied territories were a key element tary of State, either is using the issue to boost Mr Bush's without Washington's per-mission. Israel denies the in Israel's security doctrine. election fortunes by diverting

Excluded Irish gays take a walk on the Wilde side FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN NEW YORK!

Protests by prancing gay leprechauns and a boy-cott by Mayor David "O' Dinkins" failed to dampen By David Watts, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT to set tribe against tribe. Though Mr Moi's visit is billed as private, he will meet the festivities of some two million New Yorkers who Foreign Office officials. His critics see an increasingly isoturned out yesterday for the city's annual celebration of lated president who is afraid for himself. "If he could talk St Patrick.

the Restoration of Democrawould go, I am sure," said cy say they are resorting to a London meeting to avoid the Gitobu Imanyara, a human rights lawyer and editor of The Nairobi Law Monthly. extralegal tactics they allege Mr Moi is using increasingly Njenga Mungai, MP for against the opposition. There Molo, northwest of Nairobi. are also signs the forum may said yesterday that fighting be able to establish an allibetween the president's ance with other opposition Kalenjin tribesmen and Kiparties to try to present the kuyus erupted in the constitupresident with a united front ency on Sunday. The death and counteract his attempts

Kenyan opposition

to meet in London

AS PRESIDENT Moi ar-

rives in London today. Ke-

nya's main opposition party

is finalising plans for a special

summit in London to settle

the leadership question in

time for the elections expect-

Leaders of the Forum for

ed later this year.

America's biggest parade and ethnic rite went ahead hours after a federal judge rejected a demand by the Irish Lesbian and Gay Organisation (ILGO) that he order the Ancient Order of Hibernians to let them join their march up Fifth Avenue. The decision provoked a gay counter-parade and attempts by members of the militant Queer Nation

camouflage, to disrupt the 150,000-strong march.
Some 3.000 uniformed police and many kilted offi-

cers helped preserve what passed for peace amid the wailing of 50 pipe bands. While the Queer militants. most of them non-Irish, applied their usual extreme tacties to St Patrick, the more subdued Celts of ILGO waved placards of famous Irish homosexuals, including Oscar Wilde and Roger

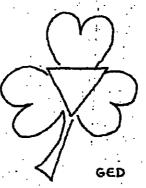
The court decision, as citizens were entering the festive mood in hundreds of green-clad bars and restaurants, inflicted an unpleasant tactical choice on group, some in full Irish politicians, as they had to

decide whether to denounce discrimination or follow the more politically profitable path of joining the

Mr Dinkins, the descendant of slaves, who adds an "O'" to his name on March 17 like his predecessor Edward "O'Koch", refused to appear and called the exclusion of a gay unit "a sad day for New York".

Governor Mario took the same course, but not the city's third most powerful politician, Senator Alfonse D'Amato. "I've never missed a St Paddy's Day." said the Italian-American Republican, who was swathed in green for the occasion.

The absence of a gay contingent at least averted ugly incidents of the kind which



marred Sunday's parade in Boston and last year's New York version. In that, Mayor

Dinkins was pelted with beer after he marched among a bevy of homosexual activists. Deploring the exclusion of homosexuals yesterday, The New York Times recalled that, as the first great "ethnic" immigrant group, the Irish had long endured bigotry and that, as recently as early this century, job advertisements would

say: "No Irish need apply". The New York Post, garbed yesterday in front-page green, was divided. One columnist ranted about the insult to tradition by meanspirited outsiders and another denounced the Hibernians as "a group of

18th-century bigots". Other frish interest of Manhattan.

groups found another cause for complaint: the annual conversion to Irishness by the drink industry. Activists have been protesting over the way that everything from German beer to Jamaican rum has been advertised with shamrocks and suggestions that they are just the thing for improving Irish spirits.

Small wonder that in the midst of all the posturing and protesting by the politi-cians and Irish "wannabes". many of the thousands of young real immigrants from the Emerald Isle repaired yesterday to the calm of their capuccinos in their favoured cafes on the Lower East Side Tisi reaches with rebel-

Moscon (1)

point fail

Murphy's law gives

humorist £88,000

AT THE end of a four-year

court battle with serious im-

\$750,000 to Alain Bern-

heim, his partner, as compen-

sation for providing Columbia with the idea for the hit

Eddie Murphy film, Coming to America. They were to receive a share of the profits

for their script, King for a Day. The 1988 film earned

\$150 million in gross sales but, thanks to the arcane

accounting used by Holly-wood, Columbia insisted it

made no profit. The writers had sought \$6.2 million.

A former boxing champion

has been appointed Keeper of

the Queen's racing pigeons.

Carlo Napolitano, aged 50, will run new lofts to be built at

Sandringham. Mr Napolita-

no, an amusement-machine

supplier and former Eastern

Counties boxing champion, will look after the Queen's

flock of about 100 pigeons;

his predecessors kept the birds at their homes. "I will

breed, train and race the

Queen's pigeons, and hope to

Moscow old guard fails to rally mass allegiance

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

HE former Sovier Union's for a predominantly comefeated communists, whose ans to reconvene the old arliament and resurrect the nion had drawn panicked arnings from the Russian athorities, held a peaceful emonstration in Moscow ist night in an attempt to wive their cause. But even as ne dignified strains of the oviet national anthem eched across Manezh square to te Kremlin walls, few can ave believed that it was not or the last time.

No more than 30,000 seople turned out. The rganisers had hoped for at east 100,000. In a strikingly accessful security operation, he police — although de-ployed in thousands — left the square and surrounding streets to the demonstrators.

There were isolated scuffles when some over zealous Yeltsin supporters came on the scene with Russian tricolours, and a bunch of young selfstyled anarchists with painted faces were chased from the crowd, who yelled "provoca-tion" and "drug addicts" at them. But, despite anticipa-tion of bloodshed by both sides, there were no more

serious incidents. Organisers and participants seemed to sense that the limelight was theirs for only a little longer. When the "popular assembly" was de-clared open, the cheers were distinctly thin. A forest of hands approved a perfunctory agenda, but a titter of laughter accompanied the announcement of the final item: selection of national

munist rally, a priest intoned a blessing as a wreath was laid at the adjacent tomb of the unknown soldier. Amen, chanted the communists.

In their final hour, the once-unchallenged commu-nists have produced some fiery orators. The Russian government were castigated as looters of the people's wealth" whose policy was determined by the International Monetary Fund, not by the welfare of the workers:

There was applause for the irrepressible Sazhi Umalatova, fresh from her candle-lit election as chairman of the day's countryside congress, and sympathy when she re-counted the difficulties encountered. There was applause, too, when another speaker called for one million signatures to start the impeachment of President Yeltsin and demanded that Mikhail Gorbachev be put on trial for treason.

But these demands were no more than the ritual babbling of a movement in its dotage Yesterday supplied proof that the former Soviet Union is becoming become a collection of "normal" countries, where the insupportable ideal of communism attracts a committed minority, where a past national anthem can be played in public without being treated as a threat to the order of the state, and where a hardline military junta can be nominated in public and not taken seriously.

Farmyard politics, page 1 Leading article, page 15

by the rebels. This is denied

by the rebels and civilians in

Zugdidi, who say they were burnt when their headquar-ters caught fire last week.

According to the townspeo-

ple, the national guard's rule in Zugdidi since the January

was a brutal one. People al-

lege widespread looting and beatings and several killings.

The agreement says that the rebel forces in Zugdidi would have the right to "continue their struggle by political means". Most inhabit-

ants recognised Dr Gamsa

khurdia, not Mr Shevard-

nadze, as the legal president.
Mr Shevardnadze has promised elections by September,
but Dr Gamsakhurdia has

denounced these as illegal

Although the effect of the

agreement is to make Min-grelia a semi-independent re-

this was not their intention

and they are aiming for a restoration of the legitimate

government in all Georgia. Mingrelians and Geor-

gians speak related but mutu-ally incomprehensible languages, but Mingrelians — like Dr Gamsakhurdia

himself — have always identi-

fied closely with the Georgian

nation. Nonetheless National

Guardsmen have reportedly

been insulting local people in ethnic terms. This is likely to strengthen the hands of the

local military authorities

against Tbilisi. They seem to

have the undivided support of

the local population.

ion, leaders of the revolt say

and called for a boycott.

Tbilisi reaches deal with rebels

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN ZUGDID!

FORCES loyal to Zviad Gamsakhurdia, the deposed president, are close to wresting the Georgian region of Mingrelia - Dr Gamsakhur-dia's birthplace - from the control of the provisional govagreemeni eariy yesteru tween representatives of the rebels and the Georgian State Council, which was later rati-

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fied by the state council. According to the agreement signed in Zugdidi, Georgian National Guard forces. which have been massing for an attack on the ancient Mingrelian capital, are to be withdrawn from Mingrelia and returned to their bases. The rebel forces are to remain in the area as part of the national guard, but their leaders said they in fact would be independent of orders from Tbilisi. The Georgian police will handle criminal

matters in the region. The state council ratified



after a personal intervention by Eduard Shevardnadze, the new head of state, against the wishes of the paramilitary leaders whose coup in January brought him to power. One. Djabar Yosseliani, argued that he had already made an agreement with the pro-Gamsakhurdia forces in Zugdidi a month ago, but they had broken it.

There were some suggestions yesterday that armed elements in Zugdidi may be prepared to reject the agreement and go on fighting for the restoration of Dr Gamsakhurdia as president.

More important than ratification by the state council will be acceptance of the agreement by the national guard. As the state council delegates returned from Zugdidi to Khobi after the talks. they were surrounded by national guardsmen who said they would not under any circumstances withdraw, but would attack in order to rescue comrades taken prisoner last week. According to the agreement, these will be released as soon as the govern-

ment troops are withdrawn. Georgian relevision has alleged that six prisoners were tortured and burnt to death

Soyuz trio takes off to relieve spaceman

BY NICK NUTTALL

THE ordeal of Sergei Krikaley, the cosmonaut stranded on the Mir space station by budget cuts, is now nearing its end after a Soyuz spacecraft lifted off faultlessly from Baikonur, Kazakhstan, yesterday. On board the three-man

Soyuz TM 14 rocket, the first manned mission since the formation of the Commonwealth of Independent States, are a fee-paying Ger-man and two Russian cosmonauts who will replace Mr Krikalev, an engineer, and his commander, Aleksandr Volkov.

Next Wednesday, Mr Krikalev will clamber abeard the return capsule after ten months of spartan living and memories which include waiting nervously for supply rockets, learning of riots at the cosmodrome in the weeks before the launch, and almost losing his commander during a space walk. Around three hours later he should come to earth in the deserts of central Asia, returning to a country which did not exist when he blasted off on what should have been a trip lasting four or five months.

At yesterday's launch, the generals hurried from a platform to watch the 48-metre (160-foot) Soyuz thunder upward on a column of flame through a blue sky. Despite the demise of the Soviet Union, the sleek white rocket was still emblazoned with the red flag and "CCCP" insig-nia that have adorned every capsule since Sputnik, the satellite that jolted the West out of its technological complacency 35 years ago.

Russian officials hope that yesterday's launch will attract more foreign invest-ment or future joint missions to help finance the mighty space complex that was once communism's spoiled child. Life on earth, in the space city of Leninsk, has become hard and could get worse without funding.

The entire population of 100,000, linked directly or indirectly to the space programme, waits in hope that this week's summit of the [1]

Moldavian authorities and

leaders of the ethnic Russian

community agreed to a

ceasefire in the Dnestr region

fighters to end hostilities.

vesterday and called on their

The two sides said they

wanted to negotiate a peace-

ful end to the conflict, Tass

reported. At least six people

were killed and several

wounded when fresh clashes

broke out earlier vesterday

between Moldavians and eth-

nic Russians in the Dnestr

region in eastern Moldavia.

Leaders of the Russian-speak-

ing community in the self-

proclaimed republic of

Dnestr had warned of the

possibility of civil war after

Since 'renewed fighting

broke out on Saturday, at

least 20 people have been

killed and 60 have been

wounded, according to sources on both sides. Before

the announcement of a

ceaselire, President Snegur of

Moldavia told a closed ses-

sion of parliament that he

would do everything possible

to stop the lighting. A television report also said that

Boris Pyankov, deputy com-

the latest clashes.



Dietrich Flade, as they prepare to leave Baikonur yesterday

members of the Common-wealth of Independent States in Kiev will finally agree on their future.

The German cosmonaut, air force officer Klaus-Dietrich Flade, and the two other Sovuz cosmonauts. Alexandr Viktorenko and Alexandr Kaleri, are due to link up with Mir - workhorse of the space pro-

Moldavia agrees ceasefire

with rebel mini-republic

An eleventh-hour

accord reached

yesterday has

apparently averted

the threat of

civil war in Dnestr

mander-in-chief of the Com-

monwealth of Independent

States army, was in the Dnestr capital of Tiraspol for

talks. The army is reportedly

seeking to withdraw its esti-

mated 10,000 troops from

the breakaway region.
The latest fighting ap-

peared to have been started

by separatists, taking the of-

fensive before a Moldavian

"face the use of force" expired

ultimatum to surrender or

at 4pm London time yester-

day. The ultimatum was is-

sued after the weekend

clashes, the worst since

Dnestr voted to secede from

of 600,000, is mostly Slavic.

while Moldavia has a strong

The Slavs fear that Moldavia

ethnic Romanian majority

Dnestr, with a population

Moldova in December.

gramme and the only permanently staffed orbital space station — on Thursday. Holm Kilbert, a spokesman for the German space agency in Bonn, said Herr Flade would be involved in 14 experiments including ones to monitor pressure behind the eyes and the blood

Mr Krikalev and his com-

which controlled all its terri-

tory except for Dnestr before

Moldavia is unwilling to

give up Dnestr, formerly part

of Ukraine, because it is eco-

nomically valuable and has a

sizeable ethnic Romanian mi-

Baku: Cyrus Vance, the United Nations special envoy, arrived yesterday in Baku, the

capital of Azerbaijan, and

said he did not intend to

mediate the dispute between

Armenia and Azerbaijan over

might say I am here solely on a fact-finding mission," he

Mr Vance said he was sent

to the Caucasus region of the

former Soviet Union by the UN secretary-general Dr Boutros Boutros-Ghali to

meet officials here, and then

would report back to him at

Battles continued yesterday

between Armenian and Azer-

baijani militants in the dis-

puted region 1,300 miles

southeast of Moscow. (AP)

Letters, page 15

the beginning of next week.

Nagorno-Karabakh.

nority of about 200,000.

the second world war.

mander will return to an uncertain future on earth. Mr Kaleri told a news conference before the launch that he thought his colleague might have trouble coping with new conditions in what had been, on his departure, the Soviet Union. Flade rejected suggestions that political upheavals back home could affect safety.

Bishops' poll guide criticised

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS

SOCIALIST and Liberal party leaders yesterday accused the Catholic church of interference in the Italian election campaign after the bishops issued eight "commandments" urging the faithful to rally around the embattled Christian Democrat party. The Christian Democrat

party newspaper. Il Popolo, published verbatim the eight precepts that were presented by Dionigi Tettamanzi at the end of a meeting of the per-manent council of the bishops' conference. The church has issued similar appeals for "Catholic unity" but it was believed to be the first time that ecclesiastical authorities have intervened publicly after an electoral campaign has

officially started. The bishops' statement outraged Bettino Craxi, the So-cialist leader. "The bishops are interfering in the election campaign." Signor Craxi said. "This is a country that as an overall majority does not

plications for the way Hollythe years," he said. wood does business, a Los Angeles judge has awarded \$150,000 (£88,000) to Art Buchwald, the humorist, and

Sir John Hall, chairman of Newcastle United, is providing 1,000 tons of soil from the grounds of his home at Wynvard Hall for Durham county cricket club's Test-standard wicket at its planned £45 million headquarters at Chesterle-Street, it was revealed yesterday. Don Robson, the chairman, said yesterday: The best soil for a new wicket is clay-based loam and that is what Sir John is giving us."

The film star Chariton Heston has joined the battle to save the former home of the pioneering Victorian photographer Julia Margaret Cameron. Builders intend to demolish the house at Freshwater, Isle of Wight, to make way for a block of flats in spite of protests. The group trying to save Carneron House from the bulldozers has been given the chance to buy the building by the developers and is trying to raise more than £200,000. Heston is to help contact American fans of the

Ballot offers no way out for Albania's ills

FROM ANNE MCELVOY IN TIRANA

THE dapper Albanian businessman in the next seat had just finished his complimentary champagne and packed away most of his in-flight meal as a present for the family. As the plane shuddered to a stop on the potholed tarmac, he pointed out of the window. "Sheeps," he said mournfully. "Sheeps on the runway. There is no order now in Albania."

Sure enough, a couple of scraggy ewes had liberated themselves from the flocks in the fields flanking the landing strip and were tugging at grass in the runway verge oblivious to flight 458 from Zurich.

Being disgorged from the daily Swissair flight at Tirana airport is rather like leaving the womb. One minute a lastidious stewardess with a satin bow in her hair is expressing the fervent wish that you will travel with her again. The next, a dwarfish official with dandruff cascading onto his frayed blue uniform is at the bottom of the steps demanding to see passports before disembarkation. This is all the more curious when one considers that Albania's main problem is not people trying to sneak in but clam-

In the run-up to Sunday's election, the country is blighted by food shortages, unemployment, and spiralling violent crime. Few now doubt that the Democratic party led by Sali Berisha, a founder member of the main opposition in 1990, will wrest control from the Socialist party, which is considered too involved with the communist past to be credible.

ouring to get out.

Neither party can offer a remedy for Albania's prob-lems, the result of decades of self-imposed isolationism and neglect. But the Democrats at least represent change and a



boosts to a worn and insecure

new set of faces, psychological

Might of Le Pen assails election-fatigued Marseilles

stature.



Fighting talk: Bernard Tapie, the Socialistaligned opponent to Jean-Marie Le Pen

NO CITY in France has more of an appetite for street politics than Marseilles, but the final flurry of campaigning for next Sunday's regional elections is wearing the locals down.

At least 30 meetings were scheduled yesterday as candidates across the political spectrum and pressure groups from feminists to the hunting, shooting and fishing lobby put in one last effort to pick up support. Canvassers armed with leaflets lurked on every street corner and opinion pollsters roamed the supermarkets, clipboards poised. What have local people

done to deserve this, especially in an election where the rate of abstention seems certain to exceed the winning party's share of the

vote? The answer lies, of are profoundly indifferent, course, with Jean-Marie Le most notably to established Pen, who many months ago parties. What M Le Pen underselected the Provence-Alpesstands, as do journalists Côte d'Azur region as the

point of departure in a perdrawn here to cover him, is that the front's campaign is sonal crusade that he truly believes will end one day in newsworthy. The vicious the presidential palace. slanging matches with Ber-M Le Pen views the renard Tapie, his chief oppogional contest as a curtainnent who is aligned with the raiser for next year's Socialists, and the furious parliamentary elections: the assaults on Edith Cresson's object of the present exergovernment of "crooks and cise is to establish the Natgangsters", gleefully repeational Front as a viable ed after she initiated legal mainstream party and himaction to restrain him, are self as a leader of national central to his strategy.

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN MARSEILLES

Every time M Le Pen has At his final rally on Monswept out onto his transportable electoral platform day night, stage-managed to perfection like those before to the slaves's chorus from Verdi's Nabucco, he is preit his theme was that "the eyes of France are fixed senting himself to a national upon Marseilles". True: alconstituency that has rarely most everywhere else, voters been so disgusted with tra-

ditional politics. If that means toning down the crudity of his racial message and soft-pedalling on the more brutal aspects of the party's immigration policies, so be it.

During his final rally here, a few thousand people as-sembled to demonstrate abhorrence of everything he represents. A black student recalled that Marseilles had rudely rejected M Le Pen when he gave them the opportunity to send him to parliament in the 1988 general election, but his support in the region now is estimated at nearly 30 per cent.

Protests and violence have accompanied his campaign. Yesterday in Paris a bomb blasted the gates of the Zenith concert hall before a rally he held there.

population. The country's infrastruc-

ture has all but disintegrated. Some 70 per cent of the population is without full-time employment. The streets of Tirana are filled with wandering men, smoking, drinking, and bartering away the long workless days. They still receive 80 per cent of their salary, but inflation is racing ahead of income. In some cities where distribution even of bread has broken down, hungry mobs have stormed food shops. The chief of the Tirana police admitted last veekend that his men no longer had control over the

Turkish blast caused by police

Istanbul: Ismet Sezgin, the Turkish interior minister, sponsible for a series of explo sions that yesterday damaged the Istanbul headquarters of their political bureau (Andrew Finkei writes).

Two policemen died in the blast which, according to official sources, happened while experts were trying to render harmless bombs which had been taken to the anti-terrorist squad for disposal. The government acted quickly to disclaim speculation that the bombs had been planted by Kurdish separatist groups.

Mr Sezgin's statement did not make clear what the police were doing with unex-ploded bombs in their building and why they were keeping them in an annexe right next to the petrol pumps used to supply police vehicles

Reporters' toll

New York: Sixty-six journalists in 17 countries were killed on duty last year, with the civil war in Yugoslavia alone claiming the lives of 19 re-porters, the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists said. (Reuter).

Activist dies

Copenhagen: A bomb killed an activist, aged 29, at the headquarters of the left-wing Internationale Socialister The blast was the first fatal attack since the second world war on a political organis-ation in Denmark. (AFP)

Race questions

Stockholm: Police at the airport questioned Robert Faurisson, the French historian who claims the Nazi extermination of Jews is a myth, before letting him into Swe-den, where it is a crime to incite ethnic hatred. (Reuter)

Navy's last call

Manila: American ships have docked for the last time at the US Navy's Subic base in the Philippines, which is to close later this year. Continued American access to Cubi Point naval air station is being considered this week.

Keating attack

Melbourne: Paul Keating the prime minister, has again criticised Britain over its war record. Denying "pom bashing", he said: "Our sacrifice in world war one for Britain was not reciprocated in kind in world war two." (AP)

Clinton for the White House

The Democratic challenger can beat

Bush, writes Conor Cruise O'Brien

vernor Clinton has a good T chance of becoming the next president of the United States. He will almost certainly win the Democratic nomination. It is being said that he is vulnerable to a renewed outbreak of scandal. What he has shown, however, is that he is capable of recovering quickly from the wounds of scandal, even benefiting from the accusations through name-recognition factor. When Mr Clinton's name is mentioned nobody any longer asks

It is possible that some future scandal will remove him, but if so it will have to be a juicy one, and above all fresh. Another item out of the governor's past is unlikely to do the trick. If it is shown that he slept (in the past) not merely with A, but also with B or even C, the probable effect will be boredom rather than shock. You would have to have an incident on the campaign trail, as in the case of Gary Hart. But Mr Clin-

ton is not in the least like Mr Hart, who was a political suicide. He was womanising during his campaign lenged dared the media to follow him around. Nobody who knows anything about Mr Clinton believes him to be capable of behaving like that. He wants to

> Clinton: his appeal across racial barriers is the key

People on this side of the Atlantic are inclined to underestimate Mr Clinton. This is partly because of a British (and European) tendency to disparage all American politicians. Partly it is due to Mr

Clinton's campaign style: folksy, populist: that big grin. Partly it is an effect of the sex scandal, with rumours of others. All this has created a vague impression that the governor is a lightweight. He is nothing of the kind. Bill Clinton is an intellectual.

though he has sense enough to disguise the fact on the hustings. His wife, Hillary, is a most formidable intellectual: a leading authority in the United States both on the laws as they affect women and on the laws as they affect children. She is also a good hand at crisis management, as she demonstrated on television.

Mr Clinton himself is a highly effective politician who appears to have solved the racial dilemma that has bedevilled the Democrats for more than a decade. Their difficulty is: how can you hold on to black votes without espousing policies that cause you to lose so many white votes that you lose everything? ivir Clinton is the Leadership Council and its thinktank, the Progressive Policy Institute. He is the candidate, that is to say, of the right of centre of the Democratic party: the choice of those who want the party to refrain from wooing blacks by offering policies that lose white votes. Obviously the danger, in following the prescription of the Democratic Leadership Council, is that the Democrats will lose the black votes they also need if they are going to

recover the presidency. This is where Mr Clinton comes in.

In his own state, Arkansas. Mr Clinton has demonstrated his capacity to win and hold both black and white votes. That capacity won the governor the influential support of the party's leadership council for his presidential campaign. The question remained whether what worked in Arkansas would work in other states. By this stage in his campaign Mr Clinton has triumphantly demonstrated that it does. Throughout the south, and also in the great cities of the north, he has demonstrated that he can win black votes without saying things that frighten off whites. Mr Clinton is therefore the answer to the prayers of the Democratic party,

and seems set to be their nominee. But can he then go on to beat George Bush? That will probably depend on whether the recession lifts. If it is still hurting come November, I believe Mr Clinton

will beat Mr Bush. Many Americans blame Mr Bush personally for the recession, and if he is not seen to have got rid of it, they are going to get rid This will be the

first presidential election since 1948 not to be fought with an awareness of a Soviet threat in background. The effect of the removal of the Soviet threat is likely to lower the value of being the presidential in-

cumbent. The factor of people wanting to "stay behind our leader as he faces the foreign enemy" is gone. Mr Bush is said to be contemplating a recovery of the factor by attacking Iraq. This would probably not work. Desert Storm was good for Mr Bush's popularity, but that does not mean that Son of Desert Storm would have a similar effect. Why, after all, should it be necessary? Why did Mr Bush stop Desert Storm if Saddam Hussein is such a danger to the United States? Mr Bush has no satisfactory answer. The truthful answer is the State Department's advice: "We need a strong Iraq." But that can hardly be trotted out if the president has just gone to war with Iraq for the second time. So probably nothing

can save Mr Bush, except an end to the recession before November. Otherwise (and barring a juicy, fresh scandal) it is going to be Mr Clinton. I hope so. I should like to see a president with a decent, sane record on race relations replacing a president who used some coded appeals to racial ill-feeling to get himself elected in 1988.

than race relations? There are, but I see no reason to believe that Mr Bush is better at any of them. Mr Clinton is more intelligent and has a host of wise and well-informed friends, as The Wall Street Jour nal has shown. In the matter of race relations Mr Clinton towers over Mr Bush. His presence in the White House would have a healing value for America. It would also tend to improve race relations in the rest of the world.

Kingsley Amis thinks the old have as much right to misbehave as the young, says Philip Howard

Glad to be grey peculiarly bad at since the Sixties. Other nations revere the old as wise, or endure them as everlasting presidents, or adore them as live in childminders and Tebbit, Roy Jenkins and Barbara. household comforters. We bang Castle, pop up continually on our them coldly away in Stalag-79s to television screens to comment on die, out of sight, out of mind, in the election, being put through their hoops by that irascible old case they embarrass us by their memento mori that to this favour buffer in the bow tie. Robin Day. we must all come. Or we buily They do it with a style and

ld age is something that the British have grown

them with bossy social services.

And we patronise them with

have not committed.

commentators and middle class

opinion-formers seem to have

morning newspapers and was

confirmed in the expanding lead

for Labour in today's Mori poll.

political coups. His plan was

ingeniously designed to benefit 80

per cent of voters while hunting

only 9 per cent. Even more

cleverly, he was achieving a huge redistribution of income while

keeping the top rate of tax below the 60 per cent that prevailed under the Tories until 1988.

ly incontrovertible statistics. Alan

Beith was reduced to spluttering about Labour's need for more

radicalism. Mr Smith clearly felt

he had all but won the election. Yet

anyone with a head for numbers

could readily have seen that Lab-

our had given an immense hos-

tage to fortune. In fact, Mr Smith

may have thrown away Labour's greatest oddortunity to drise awa

tens of thousands of middle class

voters disaffected, and in some

cases all but ruined, by the government's economic

Previous Labour governments,

for all their faults, showed that a

compassionate society did not

have to be ruinously expensive for

the middle class. But instead of trying to make socialism compati-

ble with individual advancement,

Mr Smith has deliberately created

mismanagement.

done an even worse job.

dreadful sentimentality. If at the their juniors. age of 90 you can eat a fish finger And television sitcom and drama have become much concerned with age from Till Death Us Do Part to One Foot In The Grave. with a fork in England, they think you deserve a Nobel prize and squeal at you on the soppy Esther On Monday night the first of three episodes of Kingsley Amis's The Rangen show. If you survive to your century, you get a telegram from the Queen. And yet the old Old Devils was screened, the last are people like the rest of us. Any blast of the trumpet of the elderly fool can grow old. All you have to against the monstrous regiment of do is live long enough. In Britain growing old is like being increasyouth. The programme can also be interpreted as an awful warning against the demon drink ingly penalised for some crime you Seldom a scene flits by without litres of cheap Italian wine being This month we are bringing the old out of the closet and discussing sunk by the women, and assorted the unmentionable topic of old stiff brownies and other spirits age. Veteran politicians such as Denis Healey and Norman being swilled by the old boys.

Alternatively it can be viewed as a

pungency undreamt of in the

bland marketing men's charm of

satire on the unjustified smugness of wearers of the disgusting Garrick Club tie, a bilious mixture of avocado and smoked salmon, and also as a disobliging commentary on the Welshness of the Welsh: a shastly leitmotif of never say Dai. But the main message of the book and the programme is that the old have as much right as the young to behave badly. It is Juvenalian, not jolly. A lot of people do not like this theme, finding it unrelentingly bleak. The English are uncomfortable with

happen to be at present.
When The Old Devils won the Booker Prize in 1986, Amis turned up at Guildhall in black tie and brown brogues because he could no longer squeeze his feet. into his patent-leather half-boots. One of the concealed blessings of

old age: Amis is furious about it.

and frightened, and funny for

those with strong nerves. The

sensible attitude is that old age is

always 15 years older than you

old age is that you stop being embarrassed about how you look. He was seated next to an unknown middle-aged American female whom he took to be be a Booker attachment. This was tactless placement, though even the Archangel Gabriel would have been a testing neighbour for Amis in the circumstances. After the woman had pestered him for some time about whether he minded her smoking, and whether she could give him a cigarette, she asked: Isn't there anything I can do to please you?"

On Sir Kingsley's lips trembled the retort: "Actually, there is — you see that opening at the far end of the room there, that's called a door, and you can please me no end by going through it and staying out." He claims, unpersuasively, that he is far too nice and cowardly to have said anything so rude. But in his factional hymn of comic bile to gerontocracy, the rude life is all there. In one except perhaps the lucky ones.

of the funniest scenes in the first episode, the unveiling of a pseud modern sculpture to a professional welshing poet thinly disguised under the name of Brydan, Amis gets his own back on Dylan Thomas, whom he considers a very bad poet indeed: "False, sentimentalising, melodramatising, sensationalising. ingratiating.

Another advantage of old age is that one can say what one thinks without fussing about what is culturally correct. It is not necessary to be as grumpy about the inevitable process as Kingsley Amis. Few can be as blackly and tastelessly comic about such things as the humiliations of the flesh and the chilly Atlantic of the double bed, for those who can take black comedy on these forbidden subjects. It is a welcome sign of rude life, to quote Amis's least favourite poet, that he can rage, rage against the dying of the light in such an entertaining way. Give them a bit of time, and the English may come to treat their old, as well as women, and Jews, and blacks. as human beings. They had better. since old age is coming to us all -

Where pips will squeak

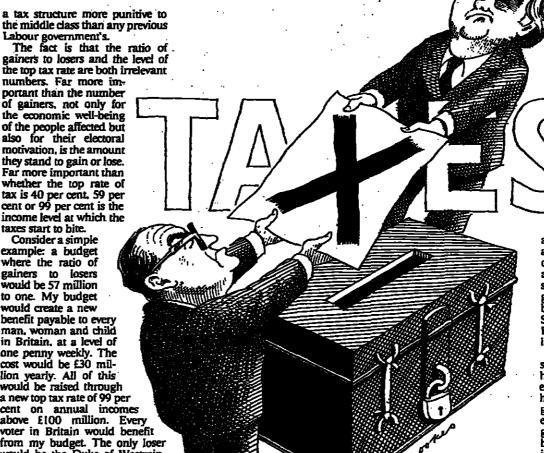
Labour's budget would hit the middle class hard while giving little to the poor, argues Anatole Kaletsky the first reactions to John a tax structure more punitive to Smith's shadow budget the middle class than any previous conveyed a sobering, if all too familiar, message. The British education system has left The fact is that the ratio of gainers to losers and the level of the people of this country comthe top tax rate are both irrelevant pletely unable to understand numbers. The blame for this numbers. Far more im-The blame for this portant than the number innumeracy should not be congainers, not only for fined to the much-maligned com-prehensive system. The great public schools and ancient univerthe economic well-being of the people affected but also for their electoral sities that educated most of Britmotivation, is the amount ain's political leaders, media they stand to gain or lose.

whether the top rate of tax is 40 per cent, 59 per The evidence was there in the cent or 99 per cent is the income level at which the taxes start to bite. Consider a simple The nation seemed to agree Mr example: a budget Smith had scored two brilliant where the ratio of gainers to losers would be 57 million to one. My budget would create a new benefit payable to every

man, woman and child in Britain, at a level of one penny weekly. The cost would be £30 mil-The hapless Norman Lamont, ill-prepared by his handlers at Conservative Central Office, seemed floored by these apparentlion yearly. All of this would be raised through a new top tax rate of 99 per cent on annual incomes above £100 million. Every voter in Britain would benefit from my budget. The only loser would be the Duke of Westminster, who would pay the new 99 per cent tax - and he is not

> Now consider the widely quoted budget analysis by the Institute of Fiscal Studies. The IFS confirmed er cent of families woul gain from Labour, and that 48 per cent would gain more from Mr Smith's proposals than from Mr Lamont's. These were the figures that left all Conservative apologists dumbstruck on Tuesday night.

Now take a closer look at the figures. The IFS shows that for every category of employed taxpayer - whether single or married, whether with children or without - there is actually an average net loss from Mr Smith's budget



relative to Mr Lamont's. Yet the IFS figures also show more gainers than losers under Labour for nearly all family categories. How can this be? The Conservatives, who seem no

more competent in running the election campaign than managing the economy, have been stumped for an answer. Yet the truth is in

the IFS analysis for all to see. For most of Labour's gainers, the benefits are paltry, but for Mr · Smith's losers the costs are potentially huge. Families with incomes between £150 and £400 a week gain an average of 85 pence a week. For the big losers, by contrast, the losses mount very rapidly, from £3.60 a week at incomes of £500, to £11 a week

above £1.000. This analysis raises a fundamental question. Does it make sense to take very large sums of money

above £600, and £105 a week

away from a relatively small number of people on moderimperceptibly small handouts to tens of millions of others who are slightly less

This question requires mor-al, economic and political discussion, a discussion that should dominate the next three weeks of electioneering if the British political class ever catches on.

The moral point is whether it is necessary or desirable to help the poor through universal henefits that recycle vast amounts of money from the affluent to the slightly less well off. All of the redistribution announced by Mr Smith was untargeted. Child benefits, pensions and tax

allowances go to rich and poor alike. Assuming there is any limit on the money to be taken from the affluent, the policy of spreading it so thinly leaves little for those genuinely in need. The average benefit for single parents from Mr Smith's proposals is £1.74 a week. For the unemployed, Mr Smith's largesse is worth 53p.

The economic issue is whether such redistribution will help or hinder recovery. It is a tenet of economics that big, sudden changes have more impact on demand than gradual small ones. Mr Smith will ensure a collapse in demand for the goods, houses and services bought by the middle class. The almost invisible gains to the rest of society are unlikely to compensate by stimulating their spending, at least

Finally, there is politics. Labour strategists seem genuinely to think they may sway the 48 per cent of more from Mr Smith's budget than Mr Lamont's. But will gains of 85p week really motivate voters? Certainly not as much as the very large losses suffered by the middle class. There may be far fewer affluent families, but in the South-East particularly they could have a crucial impact on the election. For when voters find their living standards needlessly threatened, they may turn out to be more numerate than the chattering classes.

...and moreover

have just sent the Buddha a tenner. It seemed the least I

As a matter of fact, it was the least I could do. I shall explain this later. Until then, you could think about it. The meditation will be good for you. Indeed, you might find it so good for you that, after a bit, you will feel like sending the Buddha a tenner. too. I am of course simplifying the contemplative process a bit, but then I am new to the game. At least, as far as I know I am: given its reincarnative element, I may well have been a Buddhist last time round, which could explain why I am currently taking to it like a duck to water. Unless I was a duck last time round, which could also explain it.

Where was I? Ah. yes (it's amazing what a bit of a hum with the eyes shut will do). I was about to offer you my best wishes for the Year of the Male Water Monkey. It has just begun, as I discovered this morning when I received a greetings card to that effect from Akong Tulku Rinpoche. the Abbot of Samye Ling Samye Ling is on Eskdalemuir. Scotland never ceases to surprise me. If I become more of a Buddhist, mind, it will surprise me less and less, because every-thing will, that is the way of Buddhism, but it's a small price

to pay. I feel. It's the first time I've had a New Year's card from a Buddhist abbot. That alone would have been enough to start me contemplating, never mind

turning the card over to find out what the picture on the front was and discovering that it was a view of the Clyde sponsored by Aerofilms of Borehamwood showing Holy Island, a small green blister, and part of the Isle of Arran off which it lies. Given all this, the mind thrummed: you didn't know where to start contemplating. I had got as far as wondering whether the Aerofilm pilot was a Buddhist. too, also had he flown all the way to Arran from Borehamwood without refuelling, it's a long pull in a Cessna, say four hours, you'd have to take sandwiches, were Buddhists vegetarians, did they drink, what did a pilot do when he was up there and the need for a bit of a meditate came over him ... I'd got this far. I say, when I noticed that the

envelope was not yet empty. I shook it out and found a daily timetable from Samye Ling explaining when they had meditation (8am) and when they had soup (6pm), a note from Chris Bonnington, and a letter from the abbot which, as you would expect, suddenly made all the disparate elements fall into place with astonishing clarity. He wanted £169,000,

If he gets it, he will buy Holy Island for a retreat. Holy Island was dead right, he explained, because it had been sanctified by the intense contemplation carried out there in the 6th century by St Molaise. I sought St Molaise in my Penguin Dictionary of Saints but he wasn't there, so I phoned The Tablet.

but promised to phone back leaving me free to contemplate Chris Bonnington's note, which was made up of little boxes numbered from £10 to £The sky, with a rider to the effect that donations of over £600 would enable the Buddha to reclaim tax on the donation. I was still meditating on this when The Tablet rang back to say that St Molaise normally traded under the name of St Lasdarian. He had died in 639, after voluntarily accepting an illness composed of 30 different diseases, thus gaining exemption

from Purgatory.
A bizarre deal, which made my contemplation veer away from Chris and tax, because I was stunned to hear they had discovered 30 diseases by 639, I tried working out how many diseases we have now, and only got as far as 23. After that, I began meditating on why Chris and the abbot had selected me as a potential punter. The package probably cost about £4 to produce, including postage, and they were after only £169,000, it couldn't have been worth spending more than — what? — £4,000, how did they decide that I should be one of the 1,000 chosen out of a population of 60

It was at this point that I sent them the cheque. Which, yes, proved they had got it right. Clearly, the Buddha knew a thing or two about human nature. He had sussed that a whole day of entirely novel meditation had to be worth a They had never heard of him, tenner of anybody's money.

Manifesto meteor

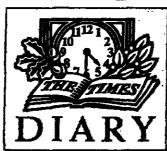
IF THE electorate delivers a favourable verdict on the Tory manifesto, to be unveiled this morning, much of the credit will go to an unknown 31-year-old Cambridge graduate who first met John Major at a Chelsea football match.

Jonathan Hill, plucked from the obscurity of the Downing Street policy unit only last week to become the prime minister's political secretary. immediately became one of three key figures in the writing of the final draft of the Tory blueprint. The trio, known in Tory circles as the "élite team", saw Hill lining up alongside Sarah Hogg, head of the unit, and Nicholas True, a fellow member who has written most of the prime minister's speeches on the Citizen's Charter. The threesome have worked in Downing Street rewriting the 30,000-word document round the clock since Major announced the election.

Hill, who will be by Major's side throughout the campaign, has overnight become one of the most rapidly rising Tory stars. He first met Major last year at Stamford

One of the Shortest Suicide notes in history





Bridge when working as a special adviser to Kenneth Clarke. A graduate of Trinity College, he worked in the City before joining Central Office five years ago. Labour's manifesto, also due

this morning, is similarly a composite job. Charles Clarke, the head of Neil Kinnock's office. has been heavily involved, as have frontbench spokesmen in their respective fields. But the key fig-ure, as ever, has been Geoff Bish, party's head of research. One Labour's greatest survivors. Bish has been involved in the writing of every manifesto since 1979, when he publicly lambasted James Callaghan after Labour's defeat for ignoring key left-wing policies. Partly as a result Bish got his own way in 1983 when he persuaded Michael Foot to adopt the manifesto, which swiftly became known as "the longest suicide note in history".

• After being virtually expunged from the last edition of The Conservative Campaign Guide published last year. Mrs. Thatcher is back with a vengeance. The revised 423-page document due to be sent to every Tory candidate this week is littered with reinstated references and quotes from the former leader. It even contains a cheery word from Mrs Thatcher in the foreword designed

to give heart to those Tory candidates who still fear the true faith has been abandoned. The guide also contains another innovation as a result of criticism of the prime minister's all-male cabinet: a 12-page chapter on women's rights.

Hard times

IAN MAXWELL is finding life hard on the meagre allowance the administrators are allowing him but that did not prevent him enjoying a convivial supper at the fashionable west London wine bar, "192", at the weekend.

His evening was almost spoilt before it started when he and his wife Laura unwittingly found themselves seated at a table next to the journalists Simon Freeman and Walter Ellis. They were hardly the pair Maxwell most wanted to meet on a Saturday night out: both had been sacked by the Maxwells from The European last year. "There was a certain awkward-

ness," says Ellis. "But the ice was soon broken when Simon, who had not even at first recognised Maxwell, ordered a round of drinks and told the waiter to put them on Ian's bill." Maxwell himself perused the wine list for some time before telling the waiter: "I think just the house white." Clearly the administrators have not been over-generous with the allowance. "Jan looked a bit dishevelled,"

says Ellis. "He said he missed his dad and was drained by spending ten hours a day with the lawyers. Maxwell's wife Laura, who hails from Chicago, looked elegant but appeared to have had even greater difficulties in adapting. Ellis says: "She complained bitterly about the way they had been treated by the 'intrusive' British tabloids." She then announced that she and Ian would be leaving Britain for good at the first opportunity.

Old irregulars

LORD CALLAGHAN, Labour's last prime minister, gathered to-gether his old staff from Number Ten last night to celebrate his 80th birthday. The private party at Green's in Westminster drank champagne toasts not only to the former leader's imminent birthday but also to the new Labour team the old-timers hope will take up residency in their old address after April 9. At least, most of their number

did. One exception was Tom McNally, Callaghan's former political adviser, now a leading Liberal Democrat. He was shunned by former colleagues for years after defecting to the SDP but was greeted last night as a long lost brother. But then 13 years is a long time in politics and only one of Callaghan's old team remains closely involved with Labour politics: Jack Cunningham, then Callaghan's PPS, who arrived hotfoot from a meeting of Labour's '? election high command.

 After the success of the sequel to Gone With the Wind comes the final instalment of Dr Zhivago. some 35 years after Pasternak's novel was first published. The loose ends are to be tied together in Lara's Child by Alexander Mollin, and film rights are already being discussed. Mike Nicholson, senior tutor in Russian at University College Oxford says: "Lara disappears, according to the novel, never to be seen again, and the future of her daughter is left dangling. It is the obvious thing to follow their life through the end of Stalinism". In fact the real-life Lara. Olga Ivinskaya. mistress of Pasternak and now in her 80s. still lives in Moscow. Her sojourn in the labour camps surely makes more compelling reading than the strongest fiction.

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BUSINESS TURNED AWAY

When the stockbroker James Capel surveyed 105 top companies last month, 86 per cent thought a Labour victory would be bad for the economy and 63 per cent that it would be bad for their business. Yesterday The Times published a letter from 43 company heads calling for the retention of a government that has revived the spirit of enterprise, barely concealed code for the Tories. The letter invoked the 1970s, "when overseas businessmen were genuinely sorry for you if you happened to be British", as evidence of the harm a Labour government would do to the economy. Today Labour-supporting industrialists reply. Is industry right to fear Labour or is its antipathy no more than a reflex?

Certainly Britain has changed drastically since the 1970s, thanks mainly to Margaret Thatcher. She made Labour realise that fiscal prudence wins votes. Already this election has seen a veritable Dutch auction of budgetary responsibility, albeit in a context of high public borrowing. John Smith, the shadow Chancellor, makes as much of his Scottish frugality as Mrs Thatcher ever did of her Grantham shopkeeper's thrift - and has succeeded in convincing much of the City accordingly. Moreover, with sterling in the European exchange rate mechanism, no governing party would have the leeway to borrow and spend much more than the Conservatives already plan to do.

In the past 13 years industrialists have often found themselves in opposition to the Tories. The CBI has loudly demanded lower interest rates, as well as more spending on transport infrastructure, tax relief on investment and more support for training, research and development. Labour has been quick to seize the opportunity. Years in opposition have made the party a vehicle for lobbyists disaffected with details of government policy.

This week, Mr Smith promised to improve transport, bring in capital allowances for investment and offer seedcorn money for R & D. He would make the jobs of company chairmen safer by stiffening take-over rules. He would spend more on supply-side improvements to education and training. The release of receipts from council house sales would produce a welcome boost to the construction industry.

This is clearly not enough. Central to business's antagonism to Labour is the party's continued devotion to retrograde policy attitudes. The trade unions may have been named by Mrs Thatcher, to Mr Kinnock's obvious relief; and Labour's employment spokesman, Tony Blair, is adament that he would not unshackle them. Since the unions have no interest in swiftly damaging a Labour government, he may be believed. But Labour remains the party of the unions, is financed by the unions and ultimately must do what unions ask, as Lord Callaghan so painfully found in 1979.

Token of the continued influence of the unions on Labour is the party's commitment to a minimum wage. Goldman Sachs esti-mates that it will directly affect over 15 per cent of employees. And it could have a knockon effect on many more by squeezing

Worse, Labour would entrench such upward pressure on costs by abandoning the central plank of John Major's post-Maastricht European policy: a firm refusal to sign up to the European social charter. Although European cost companisons are opaque, Britain outside the charter has a chance to close the industrial cost gap on Germany. With it, the gap could be frozen at its present level. With increasing numbers of continental businessmen deploting the impact of EC corporatism, for Britain to embrace such inflexibilities is madness.

The enduring hostility of the business community to Labour will have been exacerbated by Mr Smith's tax proposals. But it is not entirely self-interested. Many still fear that the party would not deliver what it promises. They find it hard to see a party that has really learnt from the mistakes of the 1970s. They fear inflation, higher interest rates and confidence not recovering but continuing to collapse.

In essence, private industry is simply not convinced that Mr Kinnock and his colleagues see the fostering of personal or corporate enterprise as a priority. The words private enterprise still stick in Labour's craw. Mr Kinnock may have backed off from renationalising all the privatised companies, but he shows no wholehearted conversion to free-market capitalism. He does not adhere to the principle of private wealth accumulation as the sine qua non for an efficient capitalist economy. Until he believes in it, he cannot expect business to believe in him.

GREENS AND THE TRUST

Between that quintessentially British institution, the National Trust, and the celebration of its hundredth birthday in 1995 lie two formidable obstacles. Both relate to the recent controversy over hunting. Some time. in 1993 a working party on deer hunting will report back to the Trust's council. The issue of a hunting ban, postponed by setting up the working party in 1990, will have to be faced again. Members will also be expecting a report into the 1 rust's constitute

Yesterday's annual report makes clear how important the Trust has become to the management of rural Britain and to the preservation of Britain's natural (and to an extent, architectural) environment. It is the largest private landowner in England, Wales and Northern Ireland - Scotland has its own body -- holding some 573,000 acres. Being a sizeable farm landlord with 1,200 tenants, it is deeply affected by the present contraction in farming. With assets worth £343 million the National Trust is no longer in the amateur league.

Trust land is now part of the leisure industry, a primary economic activity in the countryside. How it manages this land will help set a benchmark for country management generally in the next few critical years. With one proviso: the National Trust's constitution is still of horse-and-cart vintage. The business in which it is engaged is rife with single-issue enthusiasms and thus vulnerable to single-issue politics. At the Trust's 1991 annual meeting it was proposed that no resolution should be admitted for debate unless at least 10 per cent of the membership had signified its consent. That was defeated, but subsequently Lord Oliver of Aylmerton, with two members of the

Trust's council, were asked to review the constitution. The possibility of disruption by single-issue enthusiasts, from anti-hunting to vegetarianism, is only part of their remit. The other is the Trust's character as a grass-roots mass-membership organisation. Twenty years ago the Trust had barely a

quarter of a million members. The emphasis in its work was on acquisition and preservation, a conservative philosophy attracting ation of more than two million. Some of these are young, eager and radical. They do not just want to preserve, they want to campaign. The National Trust thus risks becoming a battleground between groups whose primary aims and objectives are not the advancement of the Trust's broad aims, but victory over ideological opponents.

A recent editorial in Country Life warned: Trust lands must not be allowed to become a state within a state, operating according to minority-imposed laws which are different from the law imposed by Parliament. So the Trust may need a federal structure of its 16 regions. Members would be able to vote in their regional councils, with national policy made by elected representatives from the regions. That would dilute the impact of single-issue campaigning. The result may be more a network of regional trusts, possibly even with divergent policies. But such phuralism is no bad thing in an ever more centralised nation. Establishing the proper tension between the local and the national is a task that will face every big organisation over the next decade, including the nation itself. But the Trust should hold fast to one principle that its holdings are always "in trust for the nation".

ANIMAL FARM

The Communists have returned to Orwell's farm. Banned from holding an illegal meeting of the defunct Soviet parliament in Moscow, hardliners from all over the former Soviet Union yesterday repaired to the muddy chaos of a collective dairy farm in Podolsk. There, in the concrete assembly hall lit by torches after the power was turned off, 100 of the hardest of hardliners passed a string of resolutions that would have done credit to their Bolshevik forebears.

Solemnly declaring themselves the "Sixth Congress of People's Deputies," the disparate group, who included the "black colonels" Alksnis and Petrushenko and the renegade dissident Roy Medvedev, elected a praesidium, lambasted former President Gorbachev and read out a prison letter from one of last year's putschists. Then a stern Kremlin call to the bewildered local mayor brought proceedings and the whirt of Japanese film cameras to an abrupt halt. So much for the long-threatened vengeance of the old guard.

President Yeltsin's exiling of the malcontents to a farmyard was a mistake. Who would have paid any attention to their slogan-ridden meanderings had they assembled, with their red flags and portraits of Lenin, in School No 36 of the southwestern Moscow regional district? Have not all revolutionary movements begun in incongruous surroundings?

The French Revolution was harched on a tennis court. The Levellers met in a Putney church. A table of drinkers in a Munich beer cellar poured out their bitterness with their

liquor and planned the destruction of German democracy after the first world war. The All-Russian Social Democratic Labour party - which split into Bolsheviks and Mensheviks — were chased out of Brussels by the police and continued their second congress in Tottenham Court Road, while their leaders took to the top decks of London buses, muttering "two nations, two nations."

Venues maketh the myth. The xenophobic

Chinese communists first gathered in the foreign-dominated city of Shanghai. The image of the Social Democratic Party was for ever fixed by the environs of David Owen's drawing room in Limehouse. The barons who determined the course of English democracy confronted King John in the waterlogged meadows beside the Thames.

Great issues of war and peace have been settled in the oddest places, trains being a particular favourite. The end of the Great War and the French surrender in 1940 took place in the same carriage. The leaders of South Africa and Zambia discussed the future of southern Africa in a train parked on a bridge over the Victoria Falls.

People remember best what is said and done in bizarre surroundings. British politicians have yet to learn the lesson. Who can recall which party said what, at Bournemouth, Brighton or Blackpool? Future conference organisers could usefully sound out some less conventional sites. The Lib Dems should assemble in an elegant National Trust property. The Tories should plump for anywhere in Essex. And the Labour party should go looking for the end of Wigan Pier.

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Labour's budget proposals and the business interest

From Lord Hollick and others

Sir, As business people we would like to welcome the innovative and prudent budget presented by the Labour party. It sets the framework within which a real recovery out of recession

can at last begin.

We particularly welcome the provision of capital allowances which will provide a substantial incentive to bring investment forward this year. We also welcome the new programmes for training and for the construction industry, and the initiative in transport. All these are measures for which business has

been calling for months. The redistribution of income from the top 10 per cent to everyone else will provide a welcome net boost to overall demand in the economy. The Labour party has indicated its commitment to industry and to longterm investment. It is a commitment this country desperately needs.

The above reflects our personal views and not necessarily those of the companies with which we are associated as chairmen, chief executives, or in other capacities.

Yours sincerely,

HOLLICK. ALAN AIKIN, JARVIS ASTAIRE, DOUANNE ALEXANDER-MOORE, LES BROER, CARMEN CALLIL, RAY CARTER, CHARLES CAVANAGH, DEREK CLEE, BARRY DELANEY, ROB DONELLY, DAVID EVANS. DENIS FORMAN, GERALD FRANKEL. LYNNE FRANKS,

DAVID GOLDSTONE, GREGSON, GERRY GULLIVER, PAUL HAMLYN, PHILIP HUGHES, MICHAEL KELLY, H. KUMAR, AMIN MARFANI, SARAH MACAULEY.

EDWARD McCAULEY. MARTIN MCTAGUE. MICHAEL MONTAGUE, BARRY MUNDAY, BRIAN OAKLEY, JOHN NORTON, SWRAJ PAUL KIM PENDREY, JOSEPH PICCIONI. DAVID PITT-WATSON. JOHN PREVERT. NAT PURI, RICHARD RAMAGE, DORIS SAATCHI, TONY SMITH. House of Lords.

Turks and Armenians

Prom Mr Garo Berberian Sir, Your editorial, "Levering for peace" (March 13), failed adequately to highlight the belligerent policy of the Turkish government towards Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh.

Far from being an impartial party to the conflict, Turkey may be one of the chief obstacles to peace. Indeed Turkey is already exploiting the conflict to defined a corridor linking the Azerbaijani-controlled enclave of Nakhichevan, inside Armenia, to Azerbaijan proper. This demand is additional proof that Turkey is pursuing pan-Turkish expansionist

Armenians only ask that human rights and self-determination of the Armenian majority in Nagorno-Karabakh are defended. It would appear from your edi-

torial that Western appearement of Turkish aggressiveness is based on "Ankara (being) poised to play a vital role (in) encouraging secular democracy in Central Asia". In so doing, however, the West may, for the second time this century, be blamed for tolerating crimes of genocide against the Armenians, similar to the one carried out by the Turkish government between 1915 and 1922.

Yours faithfully, GARO BERBERIAN (Armenian Human Rights Committee), 24 St Anne's Terrace, NW8.

Poll tax collection From the Director of Finance,

Islington Council

Sir, I take exception to your reference to Islington Council having the highest surcharge in the country for non-payment of £124 (report, March 13). The figure you quote is that which appears as other adjustments on the bill. This covers a number of items of which the amount for non-payment of previous years' poll tax is only £50. This council has been unfairly highlighted for adopting a realistic and honest approach to setting and reporting its poll-tax levels.

The government has recognised the considerable difficulties in collecting the tax by extending the collection period from two years to six. In the light of this and current collection rates reported the amounts shown for non-collection in other boroughs seem somewhat low.

Yours sincerely. A. R. STENNING, Director of Finance, Islington Council, 222 Upper Street, N1.

Scrolls scholarship

Sir, I have only now had a chance to read the article which you published on December 27, 1991, by Professor Geza Vermes of Oxford, "Secrets of the Scrolls", aimed at reassuring your readers that there is nothing amiss in Dead Sea Scroll studies and attacking me - the third or fourth such attack on my views in your

Referring to your own "uncritical" reporting, Professor Vermes uncritically quotes what he wishes your readership to believe are my views about a text referring to a "violent death" of a Messianic "leader" of some kind, within the framework of familiar Messianic prophecy.

this text is that it shows that both Qumran and early Christianity were

Chairman of the Labour Finance and Industry Group

From the Chairman and Deputy

Sir, This group represents some 200 men and women in senior positions in business, finance and industry. Like the signatories to your letter today "Businessmen and the election", we too think that British business should urgently consider the longer-term implications for their businesses and employees of a change in government. However, we

come to a different conclusion.

The achievements of the "enterprise economy" discussed in the letter are considerable, but the current recession indicates that they ended in about 1989. We must move on, and to do this we have to correct the serious deficiencies which have anneared in our economy and correct some of the more alarming social effects of the "enterprise economy" on our country.

The most serious deficiency is the flood of imports. The "enterprise economy" has not created the manufacturing base which is essential to maintain a high standard of living for all of us in this country.

Labour's budget and policies encourage the innovation, training and investment necessary to halt this slide and reverse it. Without this we shall have a continuing balance of payments crisis and be unable to maintain our position in the European monetary and business union.

Secondly, the "enterprise economy" has not provided the public services and infrastructure which industry needs to be successful. The crumbling deterioration is obvious to us all and we and our employees

The "enterprise economy" will never survive in a society lacking in social justice and quite simply this government has got the require-ments of social justice and industrial progress out of balance. Labour's policies move to correct this. The most conclusive proof of misrule is

From Mr Ian J. Bowler

Sir, For you to suggest that Nakhichevan or Nagorno-Karabakh could be vacated in a compromise deal is to fly in the face of history and current fact. Nagorno-Karabakh never was Armenian. Access to Nakhichevan, a perfectly legitimate and undisputed province of Azerbaijan, has been denied by the Armenians.

You mention the danger of Turkey becoming embroiled. One must remember that Azerbaijan is in many ways historically and culturally closer to Iran and there are 12 million brother Azeri Shiites living south of the Araks river. The real danger is from the Turks in Trans-

Azerbaijan has shown great forbearance in refusing offers of military aid from those quarters but in the face of irate public opinion may not be able to do so for much

A refusal to recognise the legiti-macy of the Azerbaijan stance in this conflict may well turn the whole of the Islamic world, including Iran, against the West again, with all the concomitant evil and disruption that stem from fundamentalism.

Yours faithfully, IAN BOWLER, Secretary, The Azerbaijan Foundation. 24 Poplar Place, W2. March 13.

'Invisible' women From Dr Gillian Morriss-Kay

Sir, Janet Daley's article, "A race of invisible women" (March 10), perceptively describes the position of women in many large organisations, including universities. In its first annual report, written in December 1991, Oxford University's recently formed Equal Opportunities Committee (of which I am a member) drew attention to the fact that just under 4 per cent of the professoriate of the university was female. Last week, 27 new promotions to

professorships were announced; they are all male, bringing the female representation in this most senior grade of academic appointment down to 3.3 per cent. Not only are the women holders of academic posts invisible here, but so, apparently, is the Equal Opportunities Committee.

Yours faithfully, GILLIAN MORRISS-KAY, University of Oxford, Department of Human Anatomy, South Parks Road, Oxford.

From Professor Robert Eisenman

published scrolls. pages last year.

The only claim I have made about

operating within the same Messianic scriptural framework, and brings the links between the two movements much closer than previously thought. Professor Michael Wise of Chicago University and I released it to combat the view that there was nothing of interest in the un-

With his fascination with a Jesusoriented form of Judaism, Vermes differs little from the other academic clerics who successfully dominated Dead Sea Scrolls studies for so long and attempted to rescue the uniqueness of Jesus -- c.f., the introduction to his Penguin translation of the Scrolls: "he (the Teacher of Rightcousness) was without the genius of

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number (071) 782 5046.

that this government has filled the streets with beggars.

Our members will be just as

enterprising during the next 10 years with a Labour government; but that government will help direct some of our enterprise towards those areas where it is needed to create an economy and society of which we can be proud.

Yours sincerely, SIMON HASKEL Chairman, SIGMUND STERNBERG, Deputy Chairman, Labour Finance & Industry Group, 63a Ockendon Road, N1.

From Mr Leonard W. Sheen

March 17.

Sir, Labour's shadow Chancellor, John Smith, has now revealed his proposed changes to income tax and National Insurance contributions. With an effective marginal rate of 59 per cent he has clearly failed to learn the lessons of the past. It is no coincidence that with every successive top-rate cut introduced by Nigel Lawson, the amount of income tax collected increased.

However, of much more concern must be the impact of the proposals on inward investment. As we lose out to countries such as The Netherlands, who provide clear tax in-centives to inbound executives, the United Kingdom will cease to be a favoured location for European and international manufacturing operations and corporate headquarters.

The effect of this will be to reduce vestment, reduce economic growth, leading to a higher PSBR, a devaluation of the pound and double figure

Yours faithfully, LEONARD W. SHEEN, Summerleigh, 54d Hampton Road, Teddington, Middlesex. March 17.

Business letters, page 23

Car phone protection From Mr D. J. Henning

Sir, Bob Whitehouse's article about the cost of having a cellular tele-phone stolen (Infotech Times. March 13) overstates the complications. Our users may report losses to the Vodafone customer-care organisation at any time of day or night, without cost. After a simple authentication process the Vodafone is barred from use.

A replacement phone may be supplied at no additional cost under a low-cost insurance policy which is conveniently billed with the monthly access charge.

ery number for which they are responsible daily to find excessive or unusual usage patterns. They should then contact the legitimate user and confirm whether a fraud is likely to have been committed.

Yours faithfully. D. J. HENNING (Managing Director), Vodac Limited, Vodac House, Kings Road West, Newbury, Berkshire. March 13.

Travelling incognito From Mr Neil Garrard

Sir, Your correspondent (March 14) may rest assured that failure to give an accurate description of his occupation on hotel registration forms is unlikely to lead to any major sanction.

For many years I have always met the request for my occupation by writing NOYB (i.e., none of your business). Occasionally, when extremely vexed, I have written NOYBB.

I have never had the satisfaction of being asked to explain what they

Yours sincerely NEIL GARRARD. 15 Drayton Gardens, SW10.

From Mrs Anne McCall Sir, Presumably hotels request the occupation of their guests should they require their services. I invariably enter mother and lover, but have

yet to be summoned.

Mr Gorman should consider himself lucky that the Half Moon Bay hotel needed neither a plumber nor a banker.

Yours faithfully. ANNE McCALL Temple Barn. Capel, Surrey.

Christ who laid bare the inner core of spiritual truth".

Nor are Vermes's translations very different from his characterisation of my views, betraying the same theological predisposition throughout — e.g., for "Holy Spirit" he reads "spirit of holiness", for "works" the less charged "deeds", and for "Messiah" the more innocuous "anointed

Professor Vermes contemptuously refers to my views as "the Gospel according to St Eisenman". I am flattered by this; as the "gospel" he is propagating is the same uncritical one we have all been subjected to for some 19 centuries now. Yours sincerely,

ROBERT EISENMAN. California State University Department of Religious Studies, 1250 Beilflower Boulevard. Long Beach, California 90840-2409, USA.

A chilly view of Himalaya climb

From Mr Bill Ruthven

Sir, So a party of 30 climbers (virtually unknown and with little high-altitude experience) is planning to climb Makalu (report, March 12) whilst their 420 porters clear the estimated four tonnes of rubbish left by previous expeditions.

Whilst I applaud the sentiment, the project seems to be an anachronism: I would have thought that a team of this size was likely to make as great an impact on the environment as all their predecessors put together.

With British Telecom backing amounting to £250,000, the expedition also intends to send live pictures back to the BBC. This is hardly the technological break-through they would have you believe. Late in 1987 a Japanese expedition to Everest announced plans to beam live pictures back from the summit during prime viewing time in Japan on May 5, 1988. They achieved their objective, and pictures were later shown on ITV.

For a number of reasons it is unlikely that this expedition would have received the approval of either the Mount Everest Foundation or the British Mountaineering Council if it had submitted an application. What a pity that BT apparently took no action to establish either the bona fides of the trip from accepted mountaineering specialists or the approval of their shareholders before their magnanimous act.

Yours etc., BILL RUTHVEN [Honorary Secretary, Mount Everest Foundation). Gowrie, Cardwell Close, Warton, Preston, Lancashire.

Profiting from geese

From the Chief Executive, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds Sir, Kerry Gill ("Geese eat into farmers' profits", March 12) draws attention to the problems caused to

individual farmers by barnacle geese

on the Solway, but fails to present the full economic picture. Damage to crops can cause financial loss to the individual farmer; however the cereals eaten by the geese might otherwise be expensive surpluses under the common agri-

cultural policy. The geese also attract many tourists to the area off-season. This boosts the local economy, but is of little

benefit to individual farmers. The solution is to ensure that these farmers are paid through the CAP to manage their land for geese. The RSPB has proposed linking agricultural support to the provision of "public goods", such as wildlife conservation, through incentives for environmentally sensitive farming. It is a more sensible option than trying to set arbitrary limits on the goose

The recent designation of several important goose sites, including east Essex and Islay in the Inner Hebrides, as ESAs (environmentally sensitive areas) provides a welcome opportunity to take this new ap-

Yours faithfully, BARBARA S. YOUNG, Chief Executive, The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire. March 13.

Unfair to Gibbon

From Mr P. M. A. Nokes Sir. I must defend Edward Gibbon against the charge, levelled by Dan-iel Johnson ("Literary tortoises", March 13), of idleness after completion of his Decline and Fall. Gibbon wrote the last lines of that great work on June 27, 1787, and then returned to England to oversee publication of the final three volumes which came out in May 1788.

Despite ill health and domestic upheavals he was by no means inactive during the remaining five and a half years of his life. His history of the House of Brunswick dates from this time, as does his essay on the circumnavigation of Africa. Moreover, this was the period when Gibbon composed his memoirs. And to the dismay of his friend and executor Lord Sheffield he produced no fewer than six different drafts of this minor masterpiece.

These are not the signs of an idle man. Indeed, further projects were mooted, and had Gibbon not been snatched away prematurely at the age of 56 (not 57) the world would almost certainly have read yet more from his silver pen.

Yours faithfully, PHILIP NOKES, Stoney Lane Cottage, Chantry, Frome, Somerset. March 16.

Under-developed?

From Mrs Peggy Harbidge

Sir. I have "inherited" from a young keen-green photographer friend who is moving to Bristol a large quantity of those small plastic canisters that films come in. He had been hoping to recycle them, but it seems the manufacturers do not want to know. Can any of your readers suggest a

suitable use for these objects? Yours faithfully, PEGGY HARBIDGE The Gift Shop, St Margarets, Dover, Kent.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE March 17: The Queen held an Investiture at Buckingham Pal-

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were represented by Mr Henry Elwes, Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Glouces shire at the Service of Thanks-giving for the Life of Colonel Sir Martin Gibbs, formerly Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Gloucestershire, which was held in Gloucester Cathedral today.

The Lady Susan Hussey has succeeded the Hon Mary Morrison as Lady-in-Waiting to The

BUCKINGHAM PALACE March 17: The Duke and Duchess of York were represented by Mrs John Floyd at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Colonel Sir Martin Gibbs, formerty Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Gloucestershire, which was held in Gloucester Cathedral today.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE March 17: The Prince Edward, Trustee, today gave a lunch for The Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Buckingham Palace

BUCKINGHAM PALACE_ March 17: The Princess Royal this morning visited the Hearing Dogs for the Deaf Training Centre, Lewknor, Oxford, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Oxfordshire (Sir Achless Proporties Rf) (Sir Ashley Ponsonby, Bt). Her Royal Highness afterwards attended the Fourteenth Annual

Dicey Trust Conference. "Sport and the Rule of Law", at St Edmund Hall, Oxford. Mrs Andrew Feilden was in

attendance.
The Princess Royal was represented by Lieutenant Colonel Peter Gibbs at the Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Colonel Sir Martin Gibbs, formerly Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant fro Gloucestershire, which was held at Gloucester Cathedral

CLARENCE HOUSE March 17: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother this morning presented Shamrock to the 1st Battalion Irish Guards at Wavell

Barracks, Berlin, on the occasion of St Patrick's Day.
The Lady Angela Oswald, Major Sir Ralph Anstruther, Bt. and Captain Conolly Morris-Adams were in attendance Dame Frances Campbell-Pres-

ton has succeeded the Lady Angela Oswald as Lady-in-Waiting to Her Majesty. KENSINGTON PALACE March 17: The Prince and Princess of Wales today visited Lincolnshire and were received by

Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Lincolnshire (Captain Henry Nevile). This morning Their Royal Highnesses visited the Waterside Shopping Centre, Lincoln. Wales. President. Business in the nity, met members of the

Training and Enterprise Council

to discuss Enterprise initiative. This afternoon the Prince of Wales, President, The Prince's Youth Business Trust and The Prince's Trust, met recipients of the Awards schemes, at Belton Woods Hotel and Country Club, Grantham.

Subsequently His Royal Highness, Patron, Macmillan Nurse Appeal, met Macmilian nurses and patients at Pilgrim Hospital, Sibsey Road, Bolton. Finally His Royal Highness

visited HM Prison, North Sea Camo. Freiston. This afternoon The Princess of

ed St Francis School, Wickenby Crescent, Lincoln. Afterwards Her Royal Highness visited St Barnabas Hospice, Neuleham Road, Lincoln.

Mrs James Lonsdale and Lieutenant Commander Robert Fraser, RN, were in attendance. The Prince and Princess of Wales were represented by the Earl of Westmorland at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Colonel Sir Martin Gibbs. formerly Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Gloucestershire, which was held in Gloucester

KENSINGTON PALACE March 17: The Princess Margaret. Countess of Snowdon, was esent today at the Barbican Hall at the Annual Council Meet-ing of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. The Hon Mrs Whitehead was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE March 17: The Duke of Gloucester, President, the Institute of Advanced Motorists was present at a luncheon given by the Council at the Cavairy and Guards Club. 127 Piccadilly.

Major Nicholas Barne was in The Duchess of Gloucester this

afternoon was admitted as a Fellow of Queen Mary and West-field College, University of London, Mile End Road, London Later Her Royal Highness

Patron, the Iris Fund (for the Prevention of Blindness) attended an Inaugural Lecture at St Thomas's Hospital, Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1. Mrs Howard Page was in attendance.

Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester and The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester were repre-sented by Lieutenant Colonel Sir Simon Bland at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Colonel Sir Martin Gibbs, formerly Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Gloucestershire, which was held in Gloucester Cathedral today.

ST JAMES'S PALACE March 17: The Duke and Duchess of Kent were represented by Commander Roger Walker, RN, at a Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Colonel Sir Martin ter Cathedral this afternoon.



A rail traveller reaches for his wallet urged on by Brian Johnston, the broadcaster, who was collecting for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution on Lifeboat day at Paddington station, London, yesterday

High Sheriffs

High Sheriffs appointed by Her Majesty in Council for the year 1992: England (except Cornwall, Greater Manchester, Merseyside

and Lancashire): George Philip Henry Bertuhlre: Sidney Wallace Smart of Chaddleworth, Newbure ambridgeshire: Godfrey Richard Varde Wright, of Great Wilbraham

Cambridge
Cheshire The Hon Peter Gilbert
Greenall of Darssbury, Warrington.
Cieveland: Graham Confest Mitchell of
Norton. Stockton-on-Tees.
Cumbria: Myles Christopher Ross Sandart of Ulverson. uverston. shirt: David Cade Wigglesworth Hield, Derby. : Mrs Elizabeth Anne Eden, of ngdown, near Exeter. orset: Giles Patrick Sturdy of

Dorset: Glies Patrick Sturry of Warcham: Mrs Elizabeth Ann Jennings of Sailley, Bishop Auckland.
Bast Susset: Ian Douglas George Cox of Brighding, Robertsbridge.
Esset: Alan George Tritton of Great Leights, Chelmsford.
Gloucesterskire: The Hon Philip Reginald Smith of Chipping Campden.
Greater London: James Anthony Lemkin of London NW3.
Frampshire Anthony Seymour Berkeley Postman of Upton. Andower.
Hereford and Worcester: Vanda Alexandra Clare, Lady Cotterell of Garnons, Hereford.

hire: Henry Alexander Fowell f Wareside: Ware ide: John Westland Antony Clugaton of Scawby, Brigg. Isle of Wight: David Ernest John Guy of Springvale, Seaview. Kent: Henry Hyde Villiers of Ulcomba, Leicestershire John Michael Moubray

Liverpool Victoria Friendly Society

Mr B.R. Hollands, Treasurer and Member of the Committee of Management of the Liverpool Victoria Friendly Society, retires on May 4, 1992, and consequent upon his retirement, Mr T.S.B. Philpot, FCA, Investment Man-ager, has been appointed Investperson of Kettering Northumberland: John Michael Loyd of Haydon Bridge, Hexham forth Yorkshire: The Hon Sir Richard lorge of Malton. ian Hugh Phillips of cuagamente: Ian Hugh rounds of ognborough. Leicestershift. fordshifts: John Joseph Syston of suling. Berishirt. ropshifts: Edward Martin Amphiett ompsen of Shr Ashes, Bridgmorth. merset: Edward William Aysthord hoford of Langford Sudville. Welling-thord of Langford Sudville. Welling-

ing's Lynn. forthamptonshire: Richard Paul

Rotherham. Staffordsbire: Roger Edward Whitfield of Standon, Stafford. Suffolic William Le Grand Jacob of Stations. Sam Le Grand Jacob of on Ernest Lee-Steere of Ocidey. Tyne and Wear: Hugh Goundry Brown of Newcastle upon Tyne. Warwickshire: Bristow Charles Bovill of Hallord. Shipston-on-Stour. Mailora. Snipsion-on-Stour.
West Midlands: John Anthony Jefferson
of Binton, Stratford-on-Avon.
West Sussec: Jureny For Eric Smith of
Haywards Heath.
West Yorkshire: David Humphrey Boyle,
Lyncher, Ellier

Wales Dyfed: George Malcolm Green of Rolls of Monmouth.

Gwynedd: Mrs Annwen Carey-Evans of
Fen.re Felin, Criccieth.

Mid Glamorgan: Eenneth Mertin David
Johns of Capel Liantilliern.

Fowys: Ian Gray of Ulanyilin.

South Glamorgan: Abstair Owen
Golley of Dinas Fowis.

West Glamorgan: William Isaac James
of Swanses.

Wells, FCA, MIMC, Chief Finan-cial Officer has been appointed Treasurer of the Society. Both Mr Philpot and Mr Wells have been co-opted to the Committee of Management with effect from

Dinners

Queen Mary and Westfield College Mr Martin R. Harris, Chairman of Council of Queen Mary and Westfield College, London University, and Professor Gra-ham Zellick, principal, were hosts last night at a dinner held at the college in honour of the new fellows. Professor Lord Peston, a new fellow, also spoke. Among

those present were: those present were:

Mr Alexander Baron, Mr W L Cockburn,
Frofessor W J Fishman, Professor A T
Hamo, Dr D F J Mason and Mr Sam
Wanamaker they fellows), the Most Rev
Trevor Ruddlesson, Lord Dainton, Lord
Jenkin of Roding, Sir Andrew Huxley,
OM, Lady Marre, Sir James Menter,
Professor Sir Randolph Quirk, Professor
Sir Bryan Thwaltes, Professor D C
Bradley, Dr P F Chester, Professor F R
Crane, Mr Geoffrey Drain, Professor C R
Ganellin, Mr P D Hall, Dr P Holmes,
Professor Anna Jones, Miss G M Lewis,
His Honour Alan Upfriend, Mr Bryan

Birthdays today Lieutenant-General Sir. Peter

Beale, 58; Professor Alexander Boksenberg, director, Royal Greenwich Observatory, 56; Ma-jor Sir David Butter, Lord Lieutenant of Perth and Kinross, 72: Mr J.P. Dawson, trades unionist, 52; Miss Lois Dyer, international physiotherapy consultant, 67; Mr Pat Eddery, jockey, 40; Sir William Fraser, principal and vice-chancellor. Glasgow University, 63; Sir Peter Harrop, civil servant, 66; Mr Alex Higgins smooter player, 43; Mr Harrop, cryl servani, 00; Mr Alex Higgins, snooker player, 43; Mr Patrick Kavanagh, former deputy -commissioner, Metropolitan Police, 69; Sir Robin McAlpine, former chairman, Sir Robert McAlpine and Sons, 86; Profes-sor Sir Gordon Robson, an ses the session of the session of the ses the ses of the session o chancellor, University of Wales, 62; Mr John Updike, writer, 60.

Reading University
Lord and Lady Bridges were the

guests of honour at a dinner held last night at Reading University to mark the 25th anniversary of Bridges Hall. Miss Margaret D Fuller, Warden, presided. Among others present were:

Officers present were:

Sir Harry and Lady Pin, Miss Elleen M
L Cole, Dr and Mrs A Bendley, Professor
and Mrs M D Riddiss, Dr and Mrs A
Bottoniley, Professor and Mrs G W A
Fowles, Dr and Mrs M A G Garman,
Miss G Goldman, Professor and Mrs I B
Harbotne, Mr and Mrs J E M Inge, Dr
M K Jeacock, Dr and Mrs F I Johnson,
Mr and Mrs A M W Price, Dr E A
Robson, Dr and Mrs T B Ryder,
Professor and Mrs C Tyler, Dr and Mrs
E V Watson and Dr S B Ward.

University news London

QUEEN MARY AND WESTFIELD

At a fellowship ceremony held at the College yesterday, the follow-ing were admitted as Fellows of the College: The Duchess of Gloucester, Mr Alexander Baron, Mr W.L. Cockburn, Professor WJ. Fishman, Professor A.T. Hatto, Dr D.F.J. Mason, Professor sor Lord Peston, Mr Sam Wanamaker.

Anniversaries BIRTHS: Grover Cleveland, 22nd president of the USA 1885-39, and 24th 1893-97, Caldwell, New Jersey, 1837; Stephen Mallarme, poet, Paris, 1842; Nikolay Rimsky-Korsakov. composer, Tikhvin, Russia, 1844. DEATH: St Edward the Martyr. king of England 975-78. murdered Corfe Castle, Dorset,

Forthcoming marriages Mr A.M. Lazanoore and Miss G.C.S. Grey

The engagement is announced between Alisdair, son of the late Mr D.M. Luxmoore, and of Mrs

V. Palmer, of Yealmpton, Devon. and Genesia, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs T.G. Grey, of Old

The engagement is announced in London between Wouter,

youngest son of Mr and Mrs

Herman Meijer, of Johannes-

burg, South Africa, and Laura Ann, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs John Stuart, of Knysna,

The engagement is announced

between Ned, youngest son of the

late Mr and Mrs Frank Newton.

of Much Hadham, Hentord-shire, and Penelope, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Hilary

Barber, of St Briavels, Gloucester-

Captain D.J.C. Russell-Parsons

The engagement is announced

between David John Clive Russell-Parsons, Grenadier

Guards, eldest son of Mr John and the late Mrs Fiona Russell-

Parsons, of West Haddon, Northamptonshire, and Joanne

Margaret, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Vivian Climas, of

and Miss E.M. Pigot
The engagement is announced
between Hamish, elder son of Mr
T. Prentice, of Dorchestet,
Dorset, and Mrs P. Prentice, of
Blandford Dorset and Elizabeth

Blandford, Dorset, and Elizabeth

(Libbla), youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs E.W. Pigot, of

and Miss S.L. Carter
The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr C.J.N.

Tod, of Steyning, West Sussex, and Mrs S.E. Reed, of Yapton, West Sussex, and Sheila, daughter of Mr and Mrs W.T. Carter, of Blacksburg, Virginia.

The marriage took place quietly on March 17, 1992, at All Saints Church, Bale, Norfolk, of David

Church, Bale, Notion, of David Lancaster, widower of Joan Eileen, to Beryl Preston, nee Rhodes, widow of Sir Gerald Thorley, TD. The Rev W. Brown

and Miss J.M. Climas

Mr H.D.A. Prentice

Holcombe, Somerset.

Mr D.R.N. Tod

Marriage

Sir David Nicolson

and Lady Thorley

Hunstanton, Norfolk.

and Ms L.A. Stuart

Mr W. Meijer

South Africa.

Mr E.T.L. Newton

and Miss P.J. Barber

The Hon E.J. Beckett

and Mrs C.E. McEwer The engagement is announced between Edward John, elder son of Lord and Lady Grimthorpe, and Carey Elisabeth, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Robin Graham.

Mr E.J. Birden and Miss A.M. White

MICHAEL POWELL

The engagement is announced between Elton, eldest son of Mr and Mrs K. Birden, of Doncaster. South Yorkshire, and Anthea. daughter of Dr and Mrs P. White. formerly of Duntisbourne Rous, Gloucestershire and now of Burgh St Peter, Norfolk.

Mr D. Callander and Miss H.L. Matthews

The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs A.D. Callander, of Port of Menteith, Stirling, and Helen Louise, daughter of Mr and Mrs S. Matthews, of Bingham,

Mr R.T. Cox and Miss L.K.A. Morris

The engagement is announced between Russell, younger son of Mr Bernard Cox, of Islington and the late Mrs Margaret Cox, and Leah, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Eric Morris, of Barry. South Glamorgan. • Mr A.J. Crellin and Miss J. Withers

The engagement is announced between Alistair, younger son of Mr and Mrs John Crellin, of Taunton, and Jennie, elder daughter of Mrs Gillian Withers and the late Mr Eric Withers, of

Modbury, Devon. Mr A.D. Fordham and Miss R.F. Williams The engagement is announced between Andrew David, only son

of Mr and Mrs A.J. Fordham. of Grayshott, Hampshire, and Rosemary Frances, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs M.J. Williams. of West Clandon. Ѕштеу.

Mr B.J. Georges and Miss A.G. Scott

The engagement is announced between Bradford, son of Mr and Mrs Leonard J. Georges, of Las Veges, Nevada, and Arabella, daughter of Mr and Mrs Alan T. Scott, of Melbourne, Australia. Mr M.A. Harvey and Miss K. Welton

The engagement is announced between Mark Andrew, elder son of Mr and Mrs Laurence Harvey, of Fetham, Middlesex, and Karen, younger daughter of Dr and Mrs Robert Welton, of Mossley, Lancashire.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen will attend a service at St Lawrence Jewry-next-Guild-hall to mark the 75th anniversary of King George V's Fund for Sailors at 10.50; and will attend a reception at Guildhall for the fund given by the Corporation of London.

The Princess of Wales, as President of Barnado's, will visit St Luke's Community and Day Care Centre, Gosterwood Street, Deptford at 10.25.

The Princess Royal, Chief Commandant of the WRNS, will visit the Headquarters of Commander-in-Chief Fleet and HMS Warrior, Northwood, at 8.30am. The Duke of Kent, as President of the Imperial War Museum, will

2.30; and, as President of the Royal Armouries Development Trust, will attend the relaunch of the trust appeal at the Tower of London at 7.20. The Duchess of Kent will open the

newly extended radiology depart-ment at Yeovil District Hospital

The St James's Secretarial College The St James's Secretarial College will be holding its 80th Anniversary Reception on April 23. The Principal, Mrs G.M. Hewetson.

would like to hear from any old

The Insolvency Act 1986

ERRE PROPERTY
DEVELOPING AND THE SERVE PROPERTY
DEVELOPING AND THE SERVE AN

world to give sight to the sightless and to make blind those who see.' St. John 9 : 39 (REB)

BIRTHS BAKER - On March 14th, to Susan (nee Nelson) and Paul, a daughter, Emily Catherine Mary BRADSHAW - On March Blh. BRADSHAW - On March Bit.
to Alison ince Balleyi and
Dan a daughter Olivia Clare.
BUDDEN - On March 16th
1992. al Southampton. to
Marey ince Knoxi and Philip.
a daughter. Lucy Anne.
CARTER - On March 6th. to
Pamela ince Oppegard) and
Maithew. a son. Elliot
William.

CHESTER-MASTER - On March 12th, at Hereford, to Vancessa and Ben a son, Alexander Richard. COLE - On March 14th. io Yvonne Inee Hawkins) and

lames, a daughter, Annabel Charlotte Mary, a sister for

CROSSIE DAWSON - On March 14th, to Kalle and Tom, a son a brother for Lucy and Helen Lucy and Helen

EATON - On March 15th, to
Cathy mee Williams; and
Michael, a second beautiful
daughter, Laura Michelle

EVANS-FREKE - On February 24 1992, to Valerie and
Stephen, a son Yorick Peler

GLOVER - On March 13th
1992, to Nicola Iner Van den
Berghi and Jonathan, a son,
Hugo James Makcolm

JAMIESON - On March 17th.

Hugo James March 17th, of Cueen Charloffe's Hospital. to Bella ther Rickords and Charles. a daughter. Alexandra Claire. MORAN - On March 15th. at the Si Heller Hospital, to Jacqueline and John, a son, Andrew John, a brother for James and Kalle James and Wate
NURSE - On March 14th, to
Serena Ince Williams; and
Richard a daughter.
Josephine Anna. RAWLERCE On March 16th. to Carol unre Santord; and Nigel, a son. Peter Anthony. a brother for David

UPTON-DAVIS - On March OPTON-DAYS - On Natter and 13th 1992. Io Karen and Peler, a lovely son, Patrick Hugo, a brother for Andrew and Lewis Thank you lo Susan and Barbara. WRIGHT - On March 1st to Rosemars thee Pollers and Roger, a daughter, Alice Margaret Poller

MARRIAGES

HODGSON-COAKLEY:
DARBY - On March 7th. all
Brinklow. Oiffeer Cadel
Jeremy Robert HodgsonCoakley to Rhyanne Louke
Darby The marriage service
was conducted by The Right
Reverend Bishop of
Alidricton

Niddleton PATMORE:GREENSTREET On March 14th 1992, at St Mary's Church, Eversley, and Mrs David Palmore of Barton-le-Willows, York, lo Rosanna, rider daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony

Greenstreet of Camberley, Surrey. ANNIVERSARIES TO K thank you for all the love and loy of our first year with all my love, P.V. DEATHS

ATKINSON - On Friday March 13th 1992. Colonel Francis Cuthbert CO. STJ. DL. Royal Norfolk Regiment retired. aged 79 years. Beloved father of Bridget and brother of Mrs. Michael Sparke. Funeral Service at St. Joseph's Caiholic Church. Sheringham. on Thursday March 19th at 11.30 am. Family flowers only. but donations if desired, to the Royal British Legion. Sheringham Branch. c/o Blyth Funeral Directors. Sheringham. Memorial Service to be aunounced later.

DAVIES - On March 12th 1992. In Natal, South Africa, suddenty at home, John Christopher Nigel Widdrington, beloved son of Diana, brother of Julian and Jean and much loved father of Joremy, Nicholas, Hilary, Phillip and Miles.

DONIGER - On March 16th, Renée, befored wife of Joe and mother of Caroline and Pamela, Funeral private, No flowers Donations if desired to Royal Marsden Hospital Cancer Fund, 203 Fulham Road, London SW3 6JJ Road. London SW3 6JJ
GARNONS WILLIAMS - On
March 15th. peacefully,
Basil. oped 85 years. Dearly
loved father of Jane. John
and Annabella and
grandfalher of six devoled
standchildren. Family
funeral at Sonning at 2 pm
Monday March 23rd No
flowers please, donations if
destred to RNIB. A Memortal
Service will be held at
Berkhamsted at a later date.
GLANETELD. On March 16th

Berkhamsted at a later date.
GLANFIELD On March 16th, peacefully in Tunbridge Wells, Norman Lawrence, ased 89 Youngest son of the late Sir Robert and Lady Glanfield Funeral Service at the Church of King Charles the Martyr. Tunbridge Wells, on March 23rd at 2.30 pm, followed by private cremation. Flowers of donations to League of Friends, Kent and Sussex Hospital, may be sent c/o E.R. Hickmott & Son, 41 Grave Hill Road, Tunbridge Wells, HAMILTON - On March 16th.

HAMILTON - On March 15th. HAMILTON - On March 16th, after a long illiness. John, beloved brother of Margot McLaughlin. Brigadier Hugh Hamilton and uncle of David. Fichal. Jake and Bright. Funeral Service al St John's Church. Ladbroke Grove. Wil. on Tuesday March 24th al 2 45 pm, followed by privale cremation. Family flowers only but donetions if destinate. flowers only but donations if desired to Cancer Relief Fund. Anchor House. 15-19 Bretton Street, SW3 3TZ.

HAMILTON - On March 18th, peatefully, Col. Lambert iMarcusi Hamilton O B.E., aged 83. Deathy loved and sadily missed by family and friends Funeral at St Petroc's Church, South Brest, Des on al. Len Eridau Brent, Devon, at 1 pm Friday March 20th, Donalions if desired to SUBLID c/o Perrings, High St., Tolnes.

HUDSON - On March 13th 1992. peacefully in Kings College Hospital after a short illness. Alan. aged 56 years. of West Chillington. Sussex. formerly of Courson. iliness. Alan. aged 56 years. of West Chillington. Sussex. formerly of Coulsdon. Surrey. Beloved husband of Kay. Father of Dawn and Tracey. Service at St Mary's. Church. West: Chillington. Tuesday March 24th at 11.45 am. followed by cremation. Family flowers only please, donations if desired may be sent for Kings Appeal (Liver L.T. Unit) c/o H.D. Tribe Ltd.. 130 Broadwater Road. Worthing. let: (1900) 234516.

iel: (0903) 234516.

HUTT - On March 16th 1992, peacefully at home. Rosemany Diana, much loved wife of David and mother of Rosamond. Tilly and Juliel. Funeral at St. Philip and St. James Church. Nesion. at 3 pm on Friday March 20th. Family flowers only please, donations to the Macmilian Nurses or the Dorothy House Foundation c/o H Merrett Funeral Directors. 57A Pickwick Road. Corsham. Wills. SN13 985.

Corsham, Wills, SN13 985.

KEMP - On March 15th 1992, peacefully at home in Maldon. Essex. LI. Cindr-Peter Kemp O.B.E. Befored father. grandfather and great-grandfather. Fumeral. Monday March 23rd at All Saints Church. Maldon at 230 pm. No howers at his request. But donations to Helen House Children's Horsice. Oxford.

LEVITT. Co. Monday March. Hospice: Oxfore.
LEVITT - On Monday March
16th 1992, Margaret Elspeth
(Margory) aged 88. Widow of
Frederick Charles of
Biggleswade. Funeral Service at SI Andrew's Church. vice at SI Andrews Church. Biggleswade. on Thursday March 26th at 2 pm. followed by burtal at Artesey Churchyard. Family flowers only. Votuntary donations to imperfal Cancer Research Fund may be sent to T.L. Cobbold. 23 New Streel. St Neots.

Neots.
MAYO - On March 15th
1992, suddenly at his home
in Branscombe, Devon, John
Henry, formerly of
Buckhurst Hill, Essex, The
funeral will be on Friday
March 20th at St Wintired's,
Branscombe, at 4.30 pm.
Family flowers only please,
Donations to St Wintired's
Church.
MORGAN - On Monday
March 16th, peacefully in his
100th year. Colonet Frank
Stanley Morgan C.B.E.,
E.R.D., D.L., J.P. Formerly
Pembroke Yeomanry,
Innertial Carms and

MESSION - On Sunday March 18th. Roy went to be with his Sactour who he loved dearty and wrved joyousty A Service of Praise and Thank-sming will be held in Uplan Vate Baptist Church. Torquay, on Tuesday March 24th at 2pm. Famils flowers only.

NICHOLSON - On March 16th. Edward Sealy. M.B.E.. B.M. B.Ch. Deacefully at Beccies Hospilial. Dearly beloved husband. father and grandfather. Service at Geldeston Church on March 23rd at 2.30 pm and afterwards at Gorisson Crematorium. Family Rowers only donations if desired to Friends of Beccies Hospilal. c/o Barclays Bank. Beccies. RAMSAY - On March 15th. Dorothy. Deloved Mother and Grandfurother. witdow of Lleutenant Colonel Stewart 121/123 Charterhouse Street. London EC1.

c/o Barciays Bank. Becries.

RAMSAY - On March 15th.
Dorothy. beloved Mother
and Grandmother, widow of
Lleutenant Colonel Stewari
Ramsay. In peace and with
great dignity. Memorial
Service to be held at Cheisea
Old Church on Thursday
Aprit 2nd at moon. No.
flowers please. Donations to
Cancer Resparch.

Pembroke Yeomanty.
Imperial Carnel Corps and later Royal Corps of Signals.
Husband of Helen. Sealeeach Nursing Home, Horton. Port Eymon. West Glamorgan.
Service al Swansea Crematorium on Salurday March 21st al. 11 am. No flowers.
Europai Director. D. Cotten Funeral Director, D. Colin Bowen (0792) 790960

Cancer Research.

ROSS - On March 11th 1992, peacefully in hospital. Marry, beloved wife of the late John Requiem Mass at St Martha's Church. Little Common. Bethill-on-Sea. on Monday March 23rd at 11.45 am. Flowers and enquiries to Mummery F/D. 31 Devonshire Road. Bexhill-on-Sea. (0424) 730418.

(0424) 730418.

RUDD - On March 15th. after a courageous battle. Martin. aged 75 years. Beloved husband of Joyce, much loved father of Michael and Susan and grandfather of Collo and Sarah. Funeral at Golders Green Crematorium (East Chapel) on Friday March 20th at 3.20 pm. Flowers to J.H. Kenyon. 9 Pond Street. London NWS. Donations to Leukaemia Research.

Research.
SINGLAIR - On March 13th.
Pamela, beloved daughter of
Dallas Bower and the late
Violet Florence Bower, and
sister to Tessa and Delian.
Cremation at West London
Crematiorium. Friday March
20th. 11 am. Flowers to
Ballards. 20 Upper
Tachbrook Street, SW1.

Tachbrook Streel, SWI.

SKINNER - On March 16th 1992, suddenly at home in Rochester, Michael Timothy, CB, MA, Major Ceneral (retired) Much loved husband of Anne and dear father of David, Peter and Richard and grandfather of Katherine, Funeral Service on March 25rd at 11.30 am at Rochester Cathedral, Family flowers only but donallons if desired to Rochester 2000 Appeal, There will be a Memortal Service at Rochester Cathedral Service at Rochester Cathedral Service at Rochester Cathedral on September 26th.

and Robert. Funeral at St John's Church, Desborough Road, High Wycombe on Fri-day March 20th at 12 noon.

May 4, 1992.

STOCK On March 13th 1992 in Liantwil Major. South Clamorgan. John Miles Stock O.B.E. aged 87 years of Dursley. Gloucestershire Husband of the late Dorothy Joyre Stork and father of John, also grandfather of John, also grandfather of Jennifer. Fumeral Service at Coychurch Crematorium. Bridgend. Mid-Clamorgan on Saturday March 21st at 10.30 am. Flowers may be sent to W.A. Brown & Son. Pernbroke House. College Street. Llantwit Major. South Clamorgan CF6 9SG. let: (0446) 792489.

STOKES - On March 14th. very peacefully at the Lister Hospital. Tamara Gwendolen, daughler of Col. Claude Bayfield Slokes and his darling Olga unee Postorsky). Fumeral Service St Mary Le Strand. 10.30 am Monday March 25rd. Flowers to J.H. Kenyon Ltd. 49 Martoes Road, Kensington WB. She wished to say thank you everyone for affection and fum.

FOX - 18th March 1942. P O Harold M (Harry). Sphiltre Pitel 249 Squadron, 39ed 20. St Pauls Bay, Malia. "Per Ardua Ad Astra" A O.H.

SLATTER - On March 16th. pracefully at The Chaifonts and Gerrards Cross Hospital. and Gerrards Cross riceptum, Paul Merideth Myrton Staller, born June 2nd 1910. Much loved husband of Mildred Kathleen Staller inée Barnes) and father of David

Bowen (0792) 790960

MORTIMER - On March
16th, suddenly, Jimmy, aged
72 years. Very loved
husband of Barbara,
wonderful father of Philippa,
Elizabeth and Thomas.
Funeral Mass at St Edmunds
Church, Village Way,
Beckenham, on Monday
March 20th alt 12 noon.

SPIVA - On March 11th
1992, pearefully in Newport
Beach, California, former resident of
Church, Village Way,
Beckenham, on Monday
March 20th at 12 noon.

SPIVA - On March 11th
1992, pearefully in Newport
Beach, California, former resident of
Condon. England She is
surfixed by her beloved
children Amanda and
Reagan The service took
place at St Charles' Church.
Tolura Lake, followed by the
burtal at Holy Cross
Cernelery

IN MEMORIAM - WAR BALLYN - In loving memory of Cecil. Captain. Royal Artitlery, 658 Squadron Air OP., DFC with Bar, who died of wounds on 18th 1945.

IN MEMORIAM -PRIVATE

MORE O'FERRALL - March 18th 1982, Darling Cearge, lefer islon plopeer and film director. So much for ed by us all. Elizabeth. LEGAL NOTICES

INPRO COMPLTER

SINTEMS LTD

NOTICE IS HEREN GIVEN.

PURSUANT SECTION 98 of the finosite ray. Act 1996 that a block-independent of the above and the finosite ray. Act 1996 that a block-independent of the above representation of the second representation as they may require DATED this 11th day of March 1992

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

A. BRIAR DIRECTOR and
Of these has been fodged with the
Administrative Receives any
proxy winch the creditor intends
to be fixed on his behalf
JR Hin
Joint Administrative Receives

LEGAL NOTICES

INTERCRAFT
DESIGNS I.IMITED
Notice of Administration Order
Registered number: 823645.
Nature of business: Office Furniture
Manufacturing, Trade (lessification, Manufacture of times
freation, Manufacture of the order
and furniture. Administration
Order made: 11 March 1992.
Joint Administrators Ian McBaac
and Roger A Powdiff. Office
holder nos: 2263 and 2692.

INTERCRAFT
HOLDINGS LIMITED
Notice of the Control o INTERCRAFT GROUP LIMITED INTERCRAFT GROLP LIMITED
Notice of Administration Order
Registered number 2236136
Nature of business. Office Furniture Manufacturing, Trade classi
feation Massifacture of timber
and furniture Administration
Order made. 11 March 1992.
Joint Administrators land Mctaac
and Roger A Powdrill. Office
holder nor: 2263 and 2692

IN THE MATTER OF BLAIRS OF SCOTLAND LIMITED AND IN THE MATTER OF THE SCOTLAND LIMITED AND IN THE MATTER OF THE PROPERTY OF T

appointed Joint Liquidators on the 27th February 1992 by the Creditors
Notice is also hereby given, that the creditors of the above named Company, which is being votun to before the 31st day of him 1992 to send in their full Christian and surnames, their addresses, and descriptions full particulars of their debts and clastis, and the names and addresses of their Soliritors if any to the undersayed vernon Charles within and Brain Rese flags; to the undersayed vernon Charles within and Brain Rese flags; to the undersayed vernon Charles within and Brain Rese flags; to the undersayed vernon Charles within and Brain Rese flags; to the undersayed vernon Charles within and Brain Rese flags; to the undersayed vernon Charles without and Brain Rese flags; to the undersayed vernon Charles without the undersayed within the undersayed and state house to require the moster to writing by the said Company and if we required by moster to writing by the said chots of claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved DATED this Twelfth day of March 1992

\text{V C Wright}

Br 4 Callaghant, Liquidators

IN THE MATTER OF THE IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1996
AND IN THE MATTER OF ROCHEORD THOUPSON INTERNATIONAL LIMITED IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN. SURVAILED, ACT OF THE MATTER ACT OF am for the purposes stemilioned in sections 48 and 49 of the said Art 4 creditor is entitled to tote at this meeting only if all he has forwarded to the Joint Administrative Receivers. In R. Administrative Receivers. In R. O. Old Ballov, London, ECAN 784, not letter than 1,200 flours on the 27th day of March 1992 dolalis in writing of the debt that the relations to be due to him if one the above named company and the chain has been duly admitted for the purpose of entitlement to vote, and the right of the purpose of entitlement to vote, and

IN THE MATTER OF
WATCHWORD PLC AND IN
THE MATTER OF THE
INSOLVENCY ACT 1986,
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
THAT THE COMMENT OF THE
SOLVENCY WHICH IS being
voluntarily wound up, are
required, on or before the 21st
day of April 1992, to send in the
full forename, and samame,
their addresses and samame,
their addresses and samame.

required, on or before the 21st day of April 1992, to send in their full forenames and samame, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their Solikitors is any in the undersigned Phillip Monlack. FCA Leonard Curtis & Co. 30 Eastbourne Terrare. London, W2 61F the Leuddator of the said Company, and if so required by notice in writing from the said Campany, and if so required by motive in writing from the said Campany, and if so required by their Solikitors to realists and characteristic for the debts are proved. The short of the debts are proved. Dated the 10th day of March 1992 P. Monlack J. Liquidator.

MICHAEL SALLES PROPERTY
HOLDINGS LIMITED
Registered number 1205118.
Nature of outsiness Property
Holding Trade classification; 46.
Date of appointment of administrails a receivers 10 March 1992.
Native of person appointing the
administrative receivers.
Barcless Bank Pic Joint Admin
biralive Receivers. Peter William
Grostele Dublusson and Phillip
Rodney Styles toffice holder nos.
1569 and 61194 of BDO Binder
Hantlyn 20 Cid Batter 1 onden
ECAM 7881

MICHAEL SALLIS & CO LTD
Registered number : 1008402
Nature of business Property
Developers and Building Contrators: Trade classification 40
Date of apoptatiness of administrative receivers 10 Mairch 1992.
Nature of bergon approinting the
administrative receivers administrative receivers 10 Mairch 1992.
Nature of bergon approinting the
administrative receivers Peter William
Statistics Rank Pir Jount Administrative Receivers Peter William
Growtee Dakhtikson and Phillig
Reches Styles toffite bedset nos.
1369 and 61194 of RDO Binder
Hamityn 20 Old Ballery London
FC481 7884.

Notice of Appointment of Sole
Liquidator and Notice to
Creditors to Claim
T W MEATS LIMITED
Principal Trading Address:
17 Central Markets, Smithfield,
London EC1
Company Number 1546604
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,
pursuant to Rute 4,106 of the
Insolvency Rutes 1985 that on 28
February 1992 Nigel Clooffrey
Attkinson was appointed liquidatior of the above named company
creditors' voluntary winding up.
Creditors' voluntary winding up.
Creditors of the company who
have not airceafy done to should
submit their claims in writing to
the liquidate reference.
ANT/F IT
Tout he Ross & Co.
PO Box 810 Friary Court.
65 Cruit hed Friars.
London ECSN 2NP.

PANORAMA ILESURE

and Ropes A Poperati Office holder no 2263 and 2692

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986 FENTRADICK LIMITED OLD BREW HOLES 130 HIGH STREET OLD WORLDNO.

SUFFREY OLD SUFFREY WISHING to vote at the meeting must lodge a full sale ment of actions with suffrey withing to vote at the meeting must lodge a full sale ment of actions with sufferning in person a prozet in the form attached at Burnier Philips & Co.

Sufferning Suffrey Suffrey

students who may wish to attend attend a luncheon, followed by a Please ring 071 373 3852.

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
FINTRADIS LIMITED
OLD BREW HOUSE 130 HIGH
STREET OLD WOKING,
SURREY, GUZZ 9LD
NOTICE IS HEREBY, GVEN

SURREY, GU22 9 LD

NOTICE IS HERESY CEVEN
pursuant to Section 98 of the
historency Act 1996, that a meeting of the creditors of the above
harmed company will be held at
Westminster Chamber of Comnecree on 18 March 2022 at
tioned in Sections 99 to 101 of the
said Act.

A list of the names and
addresses of the company's creditions will be available for inspection free of charge at Buchler
Phillips & Co., 84 Crost winor
Street. London wil'X 9DF
het-win of the company of the
company of the company
of and 10 March 1992.
Creditors wishing to vote at the
meeting must lodge a full statement of secound and an informal
proof of debt and an informal
proof of shutcher Phillips & Co., 84 Crostwaror Street.
London, WIX 9DF no lister then
12 noon on 17 March 1992.
Secured creditors must, unless
the particulars of their security
and its absenced value if they wish
to vote at the Meeting.

9 March 1992

By Order of the Board
Ken Smith, Director.

Jased Ris 1 San March 1992

J.C. Shuttleworth. Liquidator

WATCHWORD P.L.C. AND IN

THE MATTER OF THE

INSCLIVENCY RILLES 1986
In occordance with Rule 4.106

of The Issolivency Rules 1986
notice is hereby given that I.

Philip-Monlack, F.C. a Liconed

Messrs. Loonard Curits & C.

Messrs. Loonard Curits A.

26 61.F. was appointed Liquidalor of the above Company by the

creditors on 10th March 1992.

Dated this 10th day

of March; 1992.

Philip Monlack, F.C.

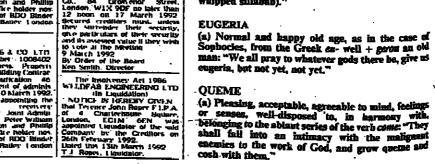
Liquidator Leonard Curits & C.

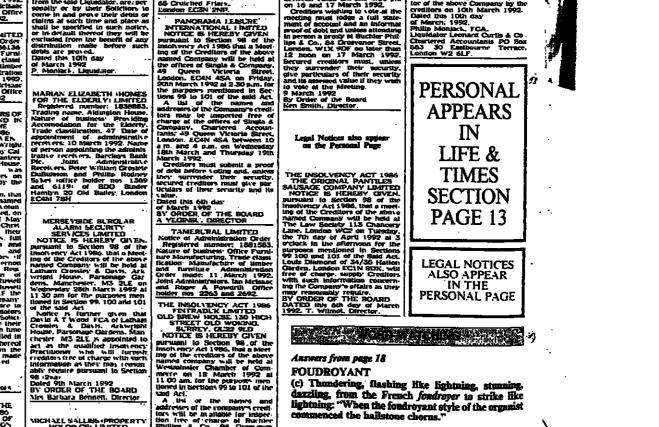
Chartered Accountants PO Box

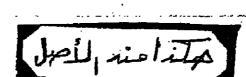
503. 30 Eastbourne Terrace.

London W2 61.F. **PERSONAL APPEARS**

(c) Thundering, flashing like lightning, stunning, dazzling, from the French fondrayer to strike like lightning: "When the fondroyant style of the organist commenced the hallstone chorus." SILLARUB (b) Something insubstantial and frothy, floridly vapid discourse and writing, from the fashionable cardled cream pudding: "Latin and Greek books (compared with which most of the English are







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Fac Highly

ASAF MESSERER



Messerer as the hero, Philippe, in The Flames of Paris

Asaf Messerer, one of the leading stars of Soviet ballet and teacher of successive generations of outstanding dancers, died in Moscow on March 7 aged 88. He was born in Vilna (now Vilnius, Lithuania) on November 6, 1903.

ASAF Mikhailovich Messerer was one of the first of the generation of dancers who transformed Russian ballet after the Bolshevik revolution. He did not see his first ballet until 1919, when he was almost 16, but he began studying so hard, first under Mikhail Mordkin, then with Alexander Gorsky, that within three years he had joined the company of the Bolshoi Theatre, Moscow, which had been weakened by the depar-ture of many dancers. He danced Stegfried in a 1922 production of Swan Lake by Gorsky. For the next 30 years he remained at the Bolshoi as a leading dancer, and although his roles were sometimes brilliant character cameos rather than the romantic leads, it was said that the sharpness he added always helped the success of the evening.

He could, and did, dance the classics but, except for Don Quixote with its humour, his small stature made him better fitted for virtuoso demi-caractère parts. Among these were two acrobatic solos (one of them spinning while manipulating a long ribbon) which he introduced into The Red Poppy, one of the most successful creations of that period, in which his performance proved

When The Flames of Paris, with its story of the French Revolution, was produced in Moscow after its successful creation in Leningrad, Messerer was the obvious choice to play the hero, Philippe, where his impetuous acting was admired as much as his bravura technique. At the Moscow premiere of the Zakharov-choreographed The Fountain of Bakhchisarai, he made a tremendous impression as Nur-Ali, leading the Khan's warriors in their wildly virile dances.

March 9 aged 64. He was

born in London on April

19, 1927.

WHATEVER the art world

may get up to, there will

always be a responsive audi-

ence for paintings and sculp-

ture which simply represent human beings being human;

and always artists for whom

this representation is a

continuing delight. Sydney

Harpley was one such sculp-tor: his favourite theme was

the beauty of the female form

in movement — languorous

or lively. Harpley's particular

contribution to sculpture was

to capture such bodies main-

taining their equipoise whilst

on the move, and his varia-

tions on Girl on a Swing

became, from around 1974,

almost an annual feature of

Royal Academy Summer Ex-

hibitions; proof of their con-

tinuing popularity was that Harpley carried off the Visi-tors' Choice prize in both

1978 and 1979. But if this

was a delightful way of earn-

ing a sculptor's bread and

butter, there was a broader

range to Harpley's sculpture

than visitors (and critics) may

father was an electrical engi-

neer and cabinet maker and

his mother a milliner. Early

childhood in Dagenham,

then a period as a wartime

evacuee in Berkshire and

Bedfordshire, was followed,

in 1941 at the age of 14, by

an apprenticeship as an elec-

trician at an American air-

National Service in the

Royal Engineers from 1945

to 1948 took Harpley to Egypt and to Cairo, where the

army found that he had a

high IQ and gave him an

office job as a staff sergeant,

the tedium of which he offset

by organising weekly gramo-

phone concerts. Then the

sight of a head of Rameses II

lying in the self same pit

where it had been carved

a career as artist.

Sydney Charles Harpley's

have realised.

force base.

Together with two other dancers who graduated a little later in Leningrad, Alexei Yermolayev and Vakhtang Chabukiani, Messerer pushed forward the boundaries of male baller technique. His special strength lay in a bounding leap. apparently without any visible preparation, and multiple turns in the air (the triple turns which he introduced are still a rarity). At the same time, these men worked for a direct, lively and vigorous manner on stage which encouraged, and was in turn developed by, choreography that sought to introduce a heroic style matching the social and political

To Messerer also must be credited the introduction of a new acting style in the classics. When he first played Siegfried in Swan Lake, he was encouraged by his actor friends to drop the traditional mime ges-nires in favour of a more realistic way of expressing the feelings and actions. This was thought to make the old ballets more accessible to a wide public, and the idea still retains a hold on many Russian productions, although latterly it has in-creasingly fallen out of favour. Even if, with hindsight, Messerer's innovation looks like a blind alley, the

aspirations of the time.

to follow by other means. Messerer's high standing in the early days of Soviet ballet is marked by the fact that he, his sister, Sulamith, and his wife, Irina Tikhomirnova, both of them leading dancers, were chosen to tour abroad in the 1920s to demonstrate their country's achievements. Messerer might have been chosen as an ambassador but he never hesitated to speak his mind. He was one of the signatories to a petition for more progressive appointments to the Bolshoi directorate in the 1920s, and in recent years he was again one of the outspoken critics of Yuri

intention was one which modern

producers could still beneficially try

Grigorovich's policies. From his earliest days as a dancer, Messerer also taught at the Bolshoi,

and he rose to take charge of the mens' perfectioning class there from 1942. His reputation for gradually developing all the muscles so as to protect dancers from injury led some of the ballerinas also to attend, among them his niece, the prima ballerina Maya Plisetskaya.

Starting with a solo The Football Player in 1924, Messerer tackled choreography too. He gave the Bolshoi Swan Lake a new last act with a happy ending (an ideologically acceptable way of matching the music's conclusion in the major key without resorting to mysticism) and with Igor Moiseyev he staged a new version of La Fille mal gardée. The work for which he is best known abroad is the showpiece concert duet Spring Waters, but his choreographic ability was best shown in a more ambitious work drawing upon his teaching skills. This began as a creation, Leçon de danse, for Béjart's company in Brussels where Messerer was guest teacher in 1961. On returning to Moscow, he elaborated it into the more ambitious School of Ballet designed to show off the many outstanding dancers then in the Bolshoi ballet, several of them his pupils. It enjoyed a trium-phant reception when brought to the West during the 1960s. Messerer became the patriarch of

a considerable theatrical dynasty; besides his illustrious dancing wife, sister and niece, there were two dancer nephews, and his son Boris became a designer. Messerer was also held in great awe and affection by his pupils, who gave a splendid gala to honour him on his 80th birthday. Even after that event he did not retire but continued teaching until his last illness. He wrote two books, one of reminiscences and the other a textbook which was translated and published in

English.

He was recognised by appointment as Merited Artist of the USSR (1933), two Stalin Prizes (1941, 1947) and People's Artist of the Russian Federal Republic (1951).

APPRECIATIONS

Vanessa Lee

MAY I add brief personal memory of Vanessa Lee, the life-enhancing lady with the warm chuckle and wicked wit who sang her heart out in the post-war world of romantic musicals and lit up the sky wherever that lovely voice was to be heard (obituary, March

Audiences rose to her from the moment "Someday My Heart Will Awake" soared up over the orchestra pit and stopped the show on the first night of Ivor Novello's final musical King's Rhapsody at London's Palace Theatre.

It was a memorable night with Novello himself and Phyllis and Zena Dare as her co-stars but it was the young Vanessa who was unforgettable.

The last great star Novello created, Vanessa Lee be-longed to an era when going to the West End theatre was an elegant occasion. That time is gone and now she is

theatre and sung as only you could sing them for us.

Sir Ronald Millar

gone too, but happily her

voice lives on in her many fine

recordings. Even so, my very

dear Vanessa, we whose sky

you lit up and whose hearts

you lifted with your music will

miss you and remember you

so long as songs continue to

be written for the musical

Sir Harold Hobson

YOUR excellent obituary of Sir Harold Hobson (March 14) reminds me of his elegant and elegiac entry in Who's Who.

In the 1981 edition, under Recreations, he wrote: "Recollecting in regretful tranquillity the magical things and people I may never see again the Grand Vefour, Lasserre, Baumanière: Proust's Grand Hotel at Balbec (Cabourg); Sunday af-ternoon teas at the Paris Ritz; the theatrical bookshop in St Germain-des-Prés: the Prado; Edwige Feuillère, Madeleine Renaud, Jean-Louis Barrault, François Périer, collecting from ephemera of the Belle Epoque the cartoons of Steinlen; and admiringly and affectionately talking to my wife (who died, alas, before she could read this tribute to her incomparable charm and

Ian Curteis

MY MEMORY of the late Sir Harold Hobson is something rather special. In the late 1960s I was the Royal Court Theatre's press officer and knew then, as one does today, that critics were to be handled with great care.

wisdom, and the unquench-

able radiance of her

On this particular first night of a particularly ambitious new production. London saw a heavy fall of

snow with Sloane Square almost snowbound. Knowing Mr Hobson's difficulty with walking I was anxious that he would not show, for unlike some directors I was aware of the power of Mr Hobson's better reviews. I positioned myself at the front door of the theatre; soon the Hobson Jaguar, chauffeured by Elizabeth his wife, came round the square, sliding to a halt. I ploughed forward to open the car door only to be told by Mr Hobson that he did not think he could make it across the pavement to the front door.

"I really don't think I can risk slipping, no, I shall come later in the run," said Mr Hobson. Now these were not words I wanted to hear, we needed this review in that Sunday's paper. Thinking on my feet. I quickly reassured him by offering to make his journey safely across the pavement by carrying him in my

"Well only if you are sure you can manage my weight." he said in a concerned tone.

We began the operation making it skilfully to the front door and beyond to his seat in the third row of the stalls.

No self respecting press of-ficer would even dream of revealing whether cradling a critic in one's arms influenced the review of the play. which ran and ran.

Memories are made of all this, goodbye Sir Harold and thank you.

Peter Cunard

Avraham Harman

AVRAHAM Harman (obituary February 29) might have made his mark at the English Bar had he not been moved by idealism to serve the cause of Zionism and the state of Israel. He won a history scholarship from Maryle(where under his original name of Abraham Herman he was school captain) to Wadham College, Oxford, obtained a First and won a Lord Justice Holker Scholarship award at Gray's Inn in

He did not, however, proceed to be called to the Bar. Many years later he was elected an hon fellow of Wadham.

Gershon Ellenbogen

1909

bone Grammar School

March 18 ON THIS DAY



The experiment of conveying a battalion of troops from London to Hastings using cars seems to have been a success. Mr R.B. Haldane was the ecretary of State for War who

did much to bring the British
Army up to date by
establishing a British
Expeditionary Force; creating
a Territorial Force and a General Staff.

MOTOR-CAR TRANSPORT TO HASTINGS.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

The experiment in the transport of troops by motor-car to Hastings was carried out yesterday with complete and un-mistakable success. The object was to demonstrate the value of motor-cars for conveying a sufficient force to any place that might be threatened or might be the subject of attack. Mr. Haldane had been careful to explain that the War Office was not responsible for the arrangements, and was merely co-operating in a very interesting experiment. The Auto-mobile Association not only conceived the idea, but worked it out in a practical form: and Colonel Du Cros, M.P., one of its members, who presented the scheme to the War Office. found Mr. Haldane very willing to provide the means of testing this new means of military transport.

For the first time in military history, therefore, an organized body of troops, being a composite battalion of Guards, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Erskine, 1st Scots Guards, has been transported by mechanical means away from the lines of railway. Hitherto such a column as journeyed so rapidly to Hastings, to meet a new "invasion" at that historic place, has kept the pace of infantry; what was done in some three hours would have occupied about

fatigued by the long march, instead of fresh and ready for any operation.

The troops turned out at Wellington and Chelsea Barracks, wearing the new web-equipment, which wins much praise; and the military

three days in former times, and

the men would have arrived

arrangements, which have been described in The Times. worked with perfect success. The cars provided by members of the Automobile Association were all at their appointed rendezvous, and numbered and ready at the appointed and ready at the appointed time. Mr. Haldane was at Chelsea Barracks to witness the departure, and the men "encarred" to invent a word with great rapidity. At the appointed hour, 9 30 a.m., the heads of the columns were at the rendezvous - namely, the Penge entrance to the Crystal Palace, one column lying along the Thicket-road, by which it had approached, another, in the same way, along the Crystal Palace Park-road, and the third, converging on the latter, along the Laurie Park-mad. It speaks much for the keenness of the public mind in military matters at the present time that people were gathered all along the road to Hastings in groups and crowds, that the school-children were turned out to witness the display, and that every village was gay with bunting, as if for a Royal procession.

It had been calculated by the Guards' officers that the journey from the Crystal Palace to Hastings, a distance of 54 miles, would bring the head of the complete column, travelling at 20 miles an hour, into Hastings at 1 pm. Some doubts were expressed among experienced motorists as to the possibility of a column of 286 motor vehicles, exclusive of cars for Staff and other officers, guests and journalists. maintaining that speed. But the military forecast was justified by the result; and punc-tually at 1 o'clock the cars of the Headquarters Staff were speeding along the front to

SALVATORE LIMA

Salvatore Lima, an Italian Christian Democrat member of the European parliament, was assassinated in Palermo on March 12 aged 64. He was born in the Sicilian capital on Jan-

uary 23, 1928. SALVATORE Lima was for more than two decades the imperturbable right-hand man of the Christian Democrat prime minister Giulio Andreotti in Sicily, and was responsible for maintaining the party as the dominant political force in the island. He was provincial secretary of the Christian Democrats in Palermo from 1961 to 1968 and served as the mayor of the Sicilian capital for more than seven years. He was a



member of the Chamber of Deputies from 1968 to 1984 when he became a member of the European parliament. Signor Lima was said to be "untouchable" because of his popularity at all levels of Sicilian society and he drove around Palermo without a police escort. But he always denied vehemently charges

levelled by his enemies that he

was linked to the Mafia. The son of a low grade municipal civil servant. he entered the Christian Democrat youth movement at 16 and was elected a town councillor at 21. After serving as an alderman and deputy mayor he crowned a meteoric rise to fame by becoming mayor of Palermo in 1958. He remained mayor until 1963 and served a second term in the post from 1965 to

In 1968 Signor Lima left

the Christian Democrat faction headed by Amintore Fanfani and pledged his allegiance to the section of the party loyal to Signor Andreotti. He was rewarded with ministerial posts as under secretary for finance in the second Andreom govern-ment between 1972 and 1973 and as under secretary for the budget in govern-ments of Aldo Moro from

1974 to 1976. Palermo magistrates on several occasions applied for nity to be lifted so he could be investigated in connection with alleged irregularities in the distribution of building contracts during his periods as mayor. The chamber of deputies gave the magistrates permission to proceed but the inquiries never led to

Signor Andreotti defended his protégé against repeated accusations by enemies who claimed he had links with the Mafia. However, a report by a parliamentary committee into the Mafia in the 1980s mentioned Lima 149 times. As early as 1964 the left wing magazine l'Espresso dubbed him "the boss of Palermo." His influence in the island was legendary and much of his working routine was taken up with answering scores of letters that arrived at his office each day from ordinary Sicilians asking for help and favours. When he entered a bar in Palermo it was usual for everyone present to stand

In 1989 Giuseppe Pellegriti, a Mafia gangster turned informer, publicly accused Lima of ordering three of the most scandalous assassinations carried out by the Sicilian Mafia: the 1980 killing of the Christian Democrat regional government president Piersanti Mattarella and those in 1982 of the Sicilian Communist leader Pio La Torre and the anti-Mafia fighter General Carlo Alberto dalla Chiesa. Investigators did not accept the charges however and the informer was charged with slander and subsequently retracted the

Lima is survived by his wife, Giulietta, and a son and

SYDNEY HARPLEY Sydney Harpley, RA, sculp-tor, died in Dublin on



Harpley and bronze Girl on a Swing

smith School of Art in 1950, going on to the Royal College of Art from 1953 to 1956, where the sympathetic atelier training arranged by John Skeaping, whereby students worked alongside eminent sculptors, gave Harpley an enthusiastic start; he devel-oped a remarkable facility in modelling clay. 1954 brought Harpley his

first appearance at the Royal

Academy Summer Exhibition while still a student, with a naturalistic girl sprawling on a chair, it was cast in ciment fondu. It was the inspiration of Degas, catching in his drawings the balance of the ungainly and the elegant, which prompted Harpley to find new, but everyday, situations for his figures: dancing or preparing to dance, riding bicycles, running, swimming, slumping in chairs, slouching in hammocks, or dreaming on swings. Harpley's presentation of these figures varied quite widely over the years. sometimes tending towards the abstract, sometimes quite sharply precise, sometimes quite fluid when cast in bronze. Sometimes they were fully dressed, sometimes naked and unashamed, and sometimes with skimpy clothing; sometimes tantalisingly conscious of their own beauty, sometimes oblivious.

instantly determined him on In other directions, Harpley was successful in 1959 with the large sculpture On demobilisation, morning work at the artificial limb factory in Rochampton made Dockworkers for the Lansbury Estate in Poplar, attendance at evening classes in art possible. He then eneast London, and he won an rolled full time at Hammerinternational competition in



1963 for an over-life-size portrait memorial to Field Marshal Jan Smuts in Cape Town. These were followed by other public commissions. and portrait commissions. such as Edward Heath (for the Constitutional Club), Prince Albert of Monaco (for Princess Grace), and Arianna Stassinopoulos.

From the 1970s Harpley taught at Leicester Polytechnic, dividing his time between Leicester and his work in London. Solo shows in Cape Town and Johannesburg were followed in Europe at Breda, Antwerp and Amsterdam, and in London there were two recent shows at the Chris Beetles gallery in 1987 and 1990. Harpley's sculpture is represented in the national galleries of South Africa and New Zealand

and in the collection of

Paul Mellon in the United

Harpley was elected to the fellowship of the Royal Society of British Sculptors in 1963. He was elected an associate of the Royal Academy in 1974 and a Royal Academician in 1981. When the history of figurative sculpture in the twentieth century comes to be written, Harpley's sculpture may be seen as continuing the celebratory domestic naturalism of Italian postwar neo-realism.

In his last years, Harpley moved with his second wife. an art historian and his frequent model, to Co Kilkenny in Ireland.

Sydney Harpley married in 1956 Sally Holliday; they had two sons and a daughter. The marriage was dissolved in 1968. He married his second wife. Jo, in 1981.

Memorial services

Colonel Sir Martin Gibbs The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were represented by Mr Henry Elwes, Lord-Lieutenant of Gloucestershire, at a service of thanksgiving for the life of Colonel Sir Martin Gibbs held yesterday in Gloucester

The Prince and Princess of Wales were represented by the Earl of Westmorland, the Duke and Duchess of York by Mrs John Floyd, the Princess Royal by Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Gibbs Princess Alice Duchess of Glouester and the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester by Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Simon Bland, the Duke and Duchess of Kent by

Commander Roger Walker and Prince and Princess Michael of Kent by Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Christopher Thompson.

The Dean of Gloucester officiated. Miss Caroline Gibbs. daughter. Captain Frederick Wills and Mr John Wills, stepsons, read the lessons, and the Dean of St Paul's gave an address. The Bishop of Tewkesbury pronounced the blessing. The Lord Chancellor was represented by Mr R.V. Grobler. Among

Lacy Known (minow), so decay, Lacy Known (minow), so death, Lacy Known (minow), so death, lack Missisteps and Mrs Thomas Wills (stepson and stepdaughter-in-law), Missistepson and Mrs John Wills Frederick Wills and Mrs John Wills

cirpdaughien-in-law. Prances Newman, Nicholsa, Camilia, Michael, Care, Richard. Gennia and Emily wills (grandchildren). Field Marshal Sir Roland and Lady Gibts (brother and sister-in-law). Mr and Mrs Rupert de Zoete (brother-in-law and sister), Mrs Michael Gibb (sister), Miss Melissa Gibts, Mr and Mrs Timothy de Zoete, Major and Mrs Conway Seymour and other members of the brully.

other members of the family.

Earl and Countess Cadogan. Earl and Countess Spencer, Viscoum Alienty, Viscoum Leverhulme, Lord Ashton of Ryde, Lord and Lady Diedinson, Lord and Lady Oalsey, Lord Margadate, Lord Courtenay, Lord Grey of Naumon, Elizabeth Lady Maclean, Lord and Lady Fanshawe of Richmond, Anne Lady Panshawe of Richmond, Anne Lady Newman, the Hon Lady Smith-Ryland, Lady Langman, Macy Lady Resville Macdonald of Sless, Sir Edward and Lady Farquinar. Str City and Lady Holland, Sir Hereward and Lady Wake.

Liemenant of Hampshire and Lady Scot, the Lord Liemenant of Hampshire and Lady Scot, the Lord Liemenant of Hampshire Scott, the Lord Licinenant of Hereford and Worsener (sito representing the Lord Licinenant of Powys) and Miss Donne, the Lord Licinenant of Type and West and Lady Carr-Ellison, the Lord Licinenant of County Lordon-derry, the Lord Licinenant of North-ampronshire, the Lord Licinenant of Somerset, the Vice-Lord Licinenant of Warwicsishire, the Vice-Lord Licinenant of the West Middands, the Vice-Lord Licinenant of the West Middands, the Vice-Lord Licinenant of the West Middands, the Vice-Lord Licinenant of College County Licinenant of College County Licinenant Licinenant of College County American Licinenant of College County American Licinenant of College County American Licinenant Licine

Members of Gioncesershire Judiciary and Magistracy, the Chairman of Bioncestershire County Countil and uner civic leaders, membe Church, and representatives Royal Navy, the Royal Win Manry, the Royal Gloucester sars, the Royal Wester Year Gloucestershire Regiment, in Sea Cades Force, the Army Co

A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Sir Patrick Hamilton was held yesterday at St James's, Piccadilly. Prebendary Norty McCurry officiated. Miss Mary Murphy read the lesson and Lord Renton, QC, and Mr

Sir Patrick Hamilton

Leonard Miall gave addresses. Mr John Hippisley also took part. Among others present were: Lady Hamilton (widow), Mr and Mrs Janos Nytri, Mr I Hippisley, Mrs James Porter, Miss Jane Porter, Mr W Malitand, Wing Commander R A Cay, Mr Gerves City, Mr and Mrs Michael

Brentford, Lord Boydok Sir David

Mary, Mr C Smari (Penton and Smart, Mist), Mist, Mr and Mrs Andrew Simon, Mr and Mrs Andrew Simon, Mr and Mrs Christopher Simon, Mrs B Sanham, Mr Tony Jember, Major-Ceneral Thomas Soylember, Major-Ceneral Thomas Soylember, Mr Brian Davidson, Miss Elizabeth Farishawe, Mr Roger Mall, Mr and Mrs C Fletcher-Cooke, Mr and Mrs Derek Cooper, Miss F A Crossonish, Professor Enhand Schilling, Tollesor and Mrs K S Holl, Mr Peter Larr Mr e H Anderson, Mr and Mrs R

(chairman, Lloyds Bank), Dame Anne Warburton (representing Lucy Cav-endish College), Mr Richard David and Baroness David. Baroness Dayld.

Mr Michael Hurn and Mr Wycliffe Woodage (Simon Engineering), Mr A Anderson Pressum Controls), Mr Torn Jackson (Disabled Living Foundation). Mr Hugh Kemsley (chairman, Winged Fellowship Trusq), Mr Roben Linsley Secretary, Carlion Cutb, also representing the chairman), Mr Bert Messie (RADAR), Dr D El-Kabir (Wybarn Hall). Mr J Hewig (Espanded Mesal Company), Mr C Smart (Penion and Smart). Mrs I, Miall, Mr and Mrs Andrew

Britons told to quit Libya after plea for **UN** action

BY MICHAEL BINYON. DIPLOMATIC EDITOR AND JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

BRITAIN yesterday urged all its citizens to leave Libya immediately, after the Western allies asked the UN security council to instruct members to cut air links and halt arms sales to Libya.

The official warning, issued by the Foreign Office, comes after consultations between Britain, France and the US on Libya's refusal to comply with a UN resolution demanding the extradition of two Libyans accused of re-sponsibility for the bombing of the Pan Am plane over Lockerbie and a UTA plane over Africa. Western diplo-

Business group boosts Kinnock

Continued from page 1

The Tory supporters included Sir Allen Sheppard. Rocco Forte, Stanley Kalms, Lord King, Robert Scholey and Alan Sugar. They emphasised that their views were personal and not necessarily those of their companies.

Neil Kinnock yesterday criticised the Tory group of businessmen, arguing that they were acting against the interests of their companies.

Their letter signed by 43 leading business figures argued against a change of government and said the country needed a government which would "put enterprise

Mr Kinnock said that it was significant that few of the businessmen backing the Tories were from construction firms or from manufacturing industry and said that he had noted there were many from the leisure industry. He added: "Given the kind of battering these industries have taken as a result of the recession and the continuing low confidence if they were making their representations on the basis of prospects for their companies alone it is quite unlikely that they would have been writing to The

mats said they were confident the measure would gain the required majority of at least nine of the 15 council members, and could pass by Mon-day. Only China, Morocco and Zimbabwe were likely to abstain or oppose it, they said. Italy, whose embassy in Tripoli looks after British interests, is opposed to such a

Relying on the same mandatory provisions of the UN charter used against Iraq last year, the draft resolution said that within 24 hours of its deny landing rights to planes arriving from or bound for Libya. The supply of aircraft, spare parts and even airline insurance would be pro-

The action comes after an unsuccessful month-long effort by Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary general, to persuade Libya to surrender the suspects — Al Amin Khalifa Fhimah and Abdel Baset Ali al Megrahi as requested by a security council resolution passed in January. Vasili Safronchuk, a special UN envoy, visited Tripoli three times for talks with Colonel Gadaffi, the Libyan leader.

The Foreign Office warning hints that as well as sanctions other unspecified "further steps" could be tak-en, clearly intended to signal to Tripoli that military strikes were not ruled out. "In these circumstances the Foreign and Commonwealth Office advises British nationals resident in Libya to consider carefully whether they need to remain in the country. They should bear in mind that there may be no flights to and from Libya following the imposition of sanctions by the security council."

If, despite the warning, the. 5.500 British citizens in Libya decided to stay, they were advised to maintain contact with the British interests section of the Italian embassy. Britain broke relations with Libya in 1984 after the shooting in London of WPC Fletcher. The Foreign Office also warned those considering visiting Libya to ask whether their journey was Letters, page 15 | really necessary.



Chorus line: two views of Joanne Redman, who stepped from the chorus into a leading role in Moby Dick

There she blows, Mr Musical's new hope

BY SIMON TAIT

WHETHER it was the St Trinian's suspender belts or his reputation for a olden touch with musicals, Cameron Mackintosh's latest show, Moby Dick, which opened last night, has won a whale of a lot of publicity.

As far as magazine space, television and radio air time before opening is concerned, this travesty of Herman Melville's classic novel has far out-paced Miss Saigon, which took £3.5 million to put on against Moby Dick's

The show, the creation of Robert Longden and Hereward Kaye, em-

erged from Mackintosh's crucible, the Old Fire Station in Oxford, which he set up as a testing house for new ideas. Safe there from the London critics, he Safe there from the London critics, he could judge whether a gamble might be a money spinner. This version places the story of the great white whale on the desk of a girls' school headmistress, played by Tony Monopoly, who decides to make a speech-day extravaganza of it, with herself as Captain

Sixth-formers seize the chance to display yards of stockinged leg, and the the show has given a fairy-tale opportunity to a chorus girl. Jenny Galloway was to have played Fifi Clampwell, the older girl who stars in the school show, but a sore throat kept her away from the first night. Joanne Redman, aged 19 and fresh out of drama school, took over. with the chance to make her name. Nick Allott, Mackintosh's executive producer, said that the hype had taken them by surprise: "Not everything we do is a major musical, and this was

oo is a major musical, and this was intended as a medium-size show, a bit bigger than Five Guys Named Mo."
But in one respect, Moby Dick has already beaten Les Mistrables. The Royal Shakespeare Company's production, which has good around the world and made fortunes for its creators, orened with advance bookings of opened with advance bookings of £200,000. Moby Dick opened last night with £250,000 in the bank.



Old guards stage a farmyard farce

Continued from page 1 influence over the mother-

land's affairs". If the meeting had drawn anything like the 1,400 depu-ties who were said to have expressed interest, it might

have been used to legitimise a hardline coup d'état. But, as soon as it became clear that nothing like that number would attend, participants, ranging from former dissident Roy Medvedev to the "black colonels", Viktor Alks-nis and Nikolai Petrushenko, began describing the session in more reassuring terms as a forum for exchanging views and a launching pad for a new movement.

But that did not prevent Sazhi Umulatova, the remarkable flaxen-haired woman from the northern Cau-

casus who chaired and dominated the meeting, from proclaiming the opening and, 40 minutes later, closing of the "Sixth Congress of Peoples Deputies".

Proceedings, cut short because the mayor of Voronovo received a stern telephone call from Moscow, included an emotional read-ing aloud of a letter from Anatoli Lukyanov, the parliamentary chairman who is in jail as a result of last year's attempted coup. The deputies agreed that it had been a mistake to lift the parliamentary immunity of Mr Lukyanov and others suspected of involvement in the coup. At the urging of Aleksandr Obolensky, a Social Demo-crat who has mysteriously

Serrolina Belgrade Belgrade Bertin Bermada: Sterritz Borde's Brussels Budepst 5 Aires' Cairo Cape Carlo Church Cologne Corlo Church Cologne Corlo Churchel Geneva Gibratter Heshild Hong K innsbrek Internbul Jedberg Karachi

turned up in the hardline camp, they amended their resolution accepting "the res-ignation of President Gorbachev" so as to insist that he was still responsible for the

country's woes.

They also elected a standing praesidium to be headed. by Miss Umulatova, whose statuesque elegance and im-passioned oratory were in sharp contrast to the grey, embittered expressions and shabby suits of most other participants. "We have shown to those people who want to dismantle our country that it still exists," she declared, standing in front of a pathetically small Soviet flag pinned to a white screen.

Old guard falls, page 13 The big puzzle of the Mori Leading article, page 15 survey is that it echoes Mr

reaching southern England this afternoon as light rain. North and

Labour takes five-point poll lead

Continued from page 1

servative fortunes failed to lift in polls taken immediately after the Budget that it would take longer for the effects of the Chancellor's tax changes to show through. It seems that they have now sunk in and the result has not been to the Tories' advantage among the key C2 skilled working-

In the last Mori survey C2 support was 37 per cent for the Conservatives, 46 per cent for Labour and 11 per cent for the Liberal Democrats. Now exactly half the C2s are backing Labour, with support for the Liberal Democrats up 4 points. Tory support among the C2s has dropped eight points to 29 per cent.

Wales and northwest England

will this morning have rain, this

Major's claims by demon-strating a strong recovery in economic optimism. A month ago those who believed that the economy would get worse over the next year outnumbered those who believed it would get better by three points. Now 36 per cent believe the economy will improve over the next year and only 21 per cent believe it will

deteriorate, giving an opti-mism figure of 15 points. Most psephologists accept that there is a close link between economic optimism and support for the govern-ment of the day. The Conservatives will be hoping that the link will hold good once more and that there is simply a little

Education and tax were also still firmly on the cam-

paign agenda yesterday. The Conservatives presented their education plans, 39 steps to higher standards, and Mr Major said the proposals would open the way for a modest rise in the number of grammar schools. However, Mr Kinnock said the plans were a "work of fantasy" and regressive. The Tories were, he said, "making proposals now to make changes to which they would never never

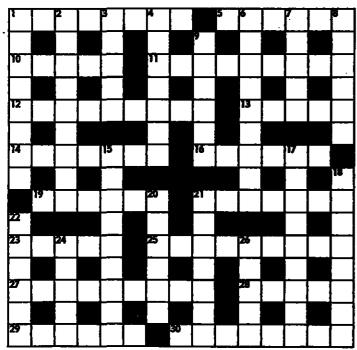
subject their own children". The Conservatives condemned Labour's tax proposals. Mr Major said the plans would destroy the classless society he was striving to create and the real victims would be those on middle incomes. The proposals were, he said. 5 vindictive and self-

11 11 11

Mar

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THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,869



ACROSS

I Press uniform when going on

5 Sulphur -- look at this sample (6) 10 Clergyman off with redhead -see front page (5)

11 Sort of carpet Leopold and Dora ordered inside (9) 12 Making up to fill in time (9) 13 Its downfall was observed by 20

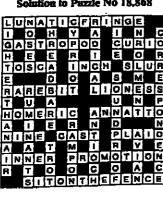
14 Drugs dealer exposed in letters to Church Times (7)

16 The cutter who follows the sewer 19 The way an old character sounds

21 We hear more than one of the lungs is involved (7)

23 Pie. say, giving us short com-mons (5) 25 The question that brings murderers to book (9)

Solution to Puzzle No 18,868



28 Duffer cut off by teacher (5)

Run scored off a side at cricket Series of religious pictures is bound to fold (8)

Into battle with the Lancers? (3-Remember to go round with the

hat again? (9) Figure in a trilby or homburg (5) "The Complacent American" — what a novel title! (7)

6 Hat that guarantees there are no flies on its wearer? (9) 7 Military band in parade (5) 8 Drive girl up in an hour (6)

9 A reminder to one proceeding 15 Puck gets pushed around by the players in this entertainment (3.6)

17 Sin with young lad delivering goods (6-3)

18 Flounder, perhaps, finding the horizontal angle (4-4) 20 Force that makes an amphibian get on (6) Small NCO up on hill as disci-

plinary officer (7) 22 As much as any member, left or right, can take (6) 24 Whip hand at the outset grabbed by Chinese society (5) 26 Almost too hard to tear open (5)

Concise crossword, page 13 Life & Times section

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which definit are correct?

By Philip Howard FOUDROYANT SILLABUB EUGERIA a. Normal old age b. A Roman nymol

Answers on page 16

AA ROADWATCH For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the dial 0836 401 followed by Landon & SE

AA Rosdwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute

Bank Selsy 19.60 57.60 10.68 7.73 9.47 2.79 32.05 11.00 239.24 11.00 2.63 11.00 1.63 9.800 1.68 9.800 1.68 9.800 1.68 Bank Buys 2,35 21,10 81,80 2,18 11,93 10,17 2,18 3,365 11,93 2,18 2,18 11,80 2,18 11,80 11

The far northwest of Britain will turn cloudier with more rain tonight. Outlook: Unsettled. Rain in northwest. Drier in southeast. Sun Rain M hna in C 26 001 12 23 003 15 1.6 15 5.0 12 1.6 0.03 0.04 0.05 cloudy cloudy cloudy cloudy tain sunny bright cloudy sunny bright

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 9891 500 followed by the appropriate code. Greater London

Kent, Surray, Sussex

Dorset, Hants & IOW

Devon & Comwell

With, Glouce, Avon, Some

Berks, Bucks, Oxon

Beds, Herts & Essex

Norfolk, Suffolk, Cembe

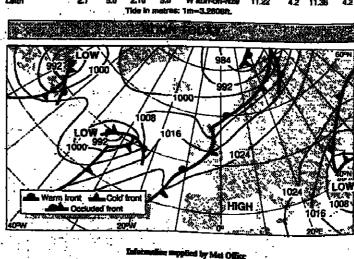
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwe

Strops, Hereide & Worcs

Central Midlands 702 703 704 705 706 707 Shrops, Herside & Words
Central Midlands
East Midlands
Lines & Humberside
Dyfed & Powys
Gwynedd & Clwyd
N W England
W & S Yorke & Deles
N E England
Cumbris & Lake District
S W Sootland
W Central Scotland W Central Sco

rampian & E Highlands. I W Scotland

west Scotland and Northern Ireland will be brighter with showers. heavy in northwest Scotland. This clearer showery weather will reach much of Wales and northern England by the end of the day. London S.11 pm to 6.7 am Bristol 5.20 pm to 6.15 am Edinburgh 6.20 pm to 6.17 am Manchester 6.19 pm to 6.44 am Penzance 6.32 pm to 6.27 am Full moon 6.18 pm HT 98 23 48 7.3 4.0 5.8 4.9 6.4 4.8 10.1 5.4 4.2 PM 11.12 9.1 11.54 6.5 4.56 5.48 4.51 7.13 11.17 11.10 10.45 6.15 3.21 11.36



MARCH

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL





Federal Express is cutting 3.500 British jobs as it withdraws from its expres delivery service in the UK and Irish Republic, which once employed 8,000. Recession has flattened the express parcel market Page 21

FAST BALL

Duniop Slazenger, Europe's biggest squash and tennis ball maker, is expected to be fined by the European Commission overcompetition rules Page 21

SIBLING



A report for the Securities and Investments Board recommends a new body to regulate private

investment Page 21

UNDERMINED

A provision against the Channel tunnel project undermined George Wimpey, which lost £16 million last year Page 21

SLOW GROWTH



World trade grew 3 per cent last year, its poorest performance since 1983, Arthur Dunkel, Gatt director-general, says Page 20

THE POUND

1.7340 (+0.0170) German mark 2.8620 (+0.0041) Exchange index 90.2 (+0.3) Bank of England official

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1940.8 (+9.9) FT-SE 100 2491.2 (+20.5) New York Dow Jones 3246.87 (+10.51)* Tokyo Nikkei Avge 19917.63 (+80.47)

INTEREST RATES:

London: Bank Base, 10½% 3-month Interbank 10¾-10%% 3-month eligible bas 10°32% US: Prime Rate 612% Federal Funds 4 %% * 3 month Treasury Bills 4 07-4.05% * 30-year bonds 99171:99171:

CURRENCIES

\$ DM1 6525" \$ SwFr1 4955" \$ FFr5.6120" \$ Yen133.40" SwFr2.5890

GOLD

Landon forex market close

London Fixing: AM \$343 35 pm \$339 00 close \$339 25 339 75 (£195.50-New York: Comex \$339.25-339.75*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Apr.) . . . \$17.85 bbl (\$17.80

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 135.6 January (1987=100)

Denotes midday trading price

WEDNESDAY MARCH 18 1992

Deal will produce one of the world's largest banks with assets of £145bn

Midland and HK Bank to merge

Neil Bennett reports on the background moves

leading to yesterday sannouncement that two big

names in the banking sector are to join forces

MIDLAND Bank and HSBC Holdings, formerly known as the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, have announced they are close to agreeing a £3 billion merger, 15 months after the previous negotiations were abandoned.

The combined bank will be one of the world's largest. with total assets of £145 billion, and a broader spread of international businesses than any of its rivals. The bank will ultimately be based in London.

Schroders, the merchant bank advising HSBC, is now thought to be preparing terms for a share offer for Midland of between 350p and 400p a share, which would value the bank at up to E3.1 billion, and compares with a net asset value of 299n a share. The terms are likely to include a cash alternative, although HSBC has confirmed it has no plans for a

A joint statement yesterday morning revealed that the two banks had resumed merger negotiations. The boards of Midland and HSBC have agreed that a merger of the two groups would now be in the best interests of both companies and their shareholders," it said. "It is envisaged that the

a recommended offer by HSBC for Midland which would value the shares at a significant premium to their current market price of 253p." Midland's shares soared by 87p to 340p on the news before settling back at

Details of the offer are expected to be published within three months, although the banks said no timetable has

Speculation about a bid for Midland had resurfaced in the City in recent weeks. Both Lloyds Bank and BAT Industries have been suggested as possible buyers, as well as a number of continental banks. The statement and the likelihood of an agreed offer from HSBC will now deter rival offers, but neither bank is ruling out the possibility of a counter bid.

HSBC resumed merger talks with Midland after its results at the end of last month. These were better than expected, with profits rising from £11 million to £36 million. City analysts had been expecting a heavy loss. The two banks abandoned

plans for a merger in December 1990 due to rising problems in their own operations caused by bad debts. Now however, Midland and HSBC are thought to have overcome the worst of their HSBC has also had prob-

its American subsidiary, and the Hongkong Bank of Australia, which have both fallen into losses due to bad debt provisions. Losses are now falling in both operations, however, and the bank continues to benefit from the strong growth in Hong Kong's economy.

One adviser said there was a real impetus behind the "In 1990, both banks were focused on their own domestic problems and cold not see beyond the next four weeks," he said. "Now both banks feel it is the right time to merge."

The banks have been linked since 1987 when HSBC bought a 14.9 per cent stake in Midland for £383 million. Since then, HSBC and Midland have swapped a series of overseas businesses and formed electronic links. through which the two banks' customers can use cash machines and transfer funds throughout the world.

A spokesman for Midland said the banks had issued the statement because they wanted to begin due diligence procedures before announc-ing a formal offer and there was a risk that the merger plans would leak.

HSBC is keeping the Bank of England informed since the central bank has the right to veto any takeover. The Bank has repeatedly stated its The commission said that the

THE negotiations between neither will yield ground easi- of National Westminster but

their respective chairmen, ers, Hongkong Bank and BP, the size of the board.

kong Bank five years later.

While Mr Purves has fo-

bank, Sir Peter has always had

a wide range of interests and is

chairman of Blue Circle and a

director of SmithKline Bee-

ly. Sir Peter and Mr Purves turned it down when the bank

of 2505m trom Third World debt stake and three year co-operation

TWELVE TROUBLE-TORN YEARS AT MIDLAND

opposition to the acquisition of core British financial institutions by overseas companies.

The proposed merger will also be examined by a series of regulators and could be subjected to an enquiry by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission or the European Commission's competition directorate.

In 1981, HSBC's bid for the Royal Bank of Scotland

objected to his plans to reduce

secure the bank's future after

China takes over Hong Kong

in 1997. Sir Peter, meanwhile

knows that Midland, which is

still suffering the effects of the

recession, has few prospects as

an independent institution in

the single European market

but could prosper as part of a larger well-capitalised group.

Mr Purves has long planned

ownership of the Royal Bank of Scotland outside Britain would act against public

In 1990, however, Hong-kong Bank set up a British

registered holding company for the group, called HSBC Holdings. HSBC will try to reassure the Bank of England that control of Midland is not moving overseas and the group will move its headquar-

Walters: longtime oilman

ters to London by the middle Tough chairmen present contest of opposites

huge losses overseas.

yesterday. The decision to make a share offer for Midland will depress its share price, which closed at HK\$44.50 (336p) yesterday. In London trading later it slipped to 313p. John Mulahy, research di-

Colony surprised at merger timing

FROM LULUYU IN HONG KONG

SHARES in HSBC Holdings are expected to tumble today despite Hongkong Bank's assurance that there will be no rights issue to finance its take-over of Midland.

Last night, analysts in Hong Kong were surprised and sceptical about the merger, which could weaken Hongkong Bank just after it has recovered from a spate of

The bank announced its intention to bid for Midland after the local market closed

rector of Peregrine Securities, said: "We have been expecting Hongkong Bank to make a move on Midland, either to

Maine-Tucker

Recruitment Consultants

raise the stake or to sell it. The timing seems sensible." Last week, Hong Kong's analysts applauded the bank's results, in which group earnings rose 71 per

cent to a record HK\$6.77 billion due to reduced losses in America and Australia and continuing growth in Hong Kong. The results prompted Moody's, the credit rating agency, to confirm its ratings for the bank, which had faced a downgrading. A Hongkong Bank spokes-

man said "a rights issue is not contemplated". While hoth banks were not ready about a year ago because each had their own problems, the situation had changed, he said "HSBC group's performance has recovered strongly. The Midland group has also made encouraging progress."

Mutual benefit, page 23

Output declines 1.3%

HSBC and Midland will rely

contest of opposites. Mr

Purves is a lifelong banker

HSBC. Sir Peter is an oilman.

who spent 36 years at BP and

came to banking late in life.

Both men are 61 and both are

heavily on the personalities of joined their respective employ-

In many ways it will be a Purves took charge of Hong-

who rose through the ranks at cused his efforts inside his

known for their tough negoti- cham and Thorn EMI. He

ating ability, however, and was offered the chairmanship

BY COLIN NARBROUGH

Purves: longtime insider

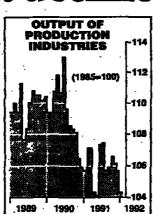
GOVERNMENT figures showed a 1.3 per cent drop in Britain's industrial output in January, fuelling City fears that the longest recession since the early Thirties could continue this quarter.

The production data were accompanied by disappointing figures on government finances, which confirmed the deterioration that Norman Lamont, the Chancellor. reported in the Budget.

The government sought to dismiss the output figures. underlining their backwardlooking nature.

Manufacturing saw output fall a further 0.7 per cent in January after a revised decline of 0.4 per cent in December.

The surprisingly large January fall in overall industrial production, which includes the energy sector, also followed an 0.4 per cent decline in December. Energy output



fell 2.7 per cent in January. The broader data compare the latest three months with the previous three. Industrial output was down 0.7 per cent in the latest three months and 0.6 per cent lower on an annual basis.

Manufacturing was 0.9 per cent and 3.3 per cent lower respectively for the same periods. The recession had lasted six successive quarters by the end of 1991, but the latest

concern about the effects of weakening demand for Brit-ish goods at home and abroad. Gerard Lyons, chief econo-

mist at DKB international, said: "Recession goes on, with no light yet visible at the end of the tunnel." Robert Lind, economist at UBS Phillips & Drew, said the output data showed that the "trend is on a downward lurch again". The public sector borrow-

ing requirement in February was a provisional £963 mil-lion after a repayment of £3.76 billion in January. This brought the cumulative PSBR to £7.4 billion for the first 11 months of fiscal 1991-92, up 11.1 per cent from the same period in 1990-1. The February figures included £809 million in receipts from the second instalment of the disposal of the electricity generating companies.

American outlook improves

BY OUR ECONOMICS

THE biggest monthly rise in American housing starts since March 1990 indicated rediscovered consumer confidence and recovery. Starts

rose 9.6 per cent in February. Industrial output rose 0.6 per cent last month, says the Federal Reserve, after three cline. Consumer prices rose 0.3 per cent, the strongest monthly rise for three months.

The American current account deficit fell to \$8.62 billion last year, the smallest for nearly a decade. ☐ Australia has officially emerged from its 18-month recession. National account last year showed a growth increase of 0.3 per cent after a 0.1 per cent gain in the third

Comment, page 23

IS YOUR SECRETARY STILL WASTING

YOUR TIME?

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US oilmen drill London for cash

By MARTIN BARROW

THE optimism of the oil and gas industry knows no bounds. Every exploration company, regardless of size, lives for the day when a single mammoth discovery will transform it overnight. Oil prices are always on the verge of a sharp

recovery and gas is the fuel of the future. Oil barons never tire of telling the world that a recovery is just round the corner. And over the years there has been no shortage of investors - generally with more money than sense - eager to take part in this adventure, anxious not to miss out on The Big One.

At least, that has been the case until recently. Now the money has dried up. Potential investors are no longer enthralled by tales of promising surveys and exciting geological tests. Market rumours of a big find in Texas and Colombia no longer create a buzz thousands of miles away in the City of London. Even the likes of BP and Lasmo

are no longer considered risk-free, and their shares have dived. Minnows such as Richmond Oil and Gas, Teredo Petroleum and Exploration Company of Louisiana, whose strong American bias set the City alight during the bull market, are reduced to penny stocks.

Yet none of this deters American energy companies, quoted and unquoted, from continuing to look to London to

Yesterday, six of their number enticed British financial institutions to a conference at the Waldorf Hotel to outline their plans and raise money. All spoke of the difficulties of raising money in America, yet expressed confidence that London would give them a favourable hearing Old habits die hard.

Ramco Oil and Gas Inc. a production company, enjoyed close links with New York Life, which invested \$140 million in its ventures. Now Ramco is obliged to seek funds elsewhere. Rolf Hufnagel. senior vice-president, described the

American capital market as "a rollercoaster". Mark Kelldorf, president of Arkoma Basin Exploration, said: "No one has got any money to spend."

Nor has London for that matter. But Tom Price, a vice-president of Chesapeake Operating Inc. said London was "the pre-eminent financial centre in this part of the world" and he was here to 'try to engender understanding" in the American oil industry. And, presumably, raise some money. Chesapeake has drilled 114 wells in Texas and Oklahoma, 103 of which are in commercial production, and has identified a further 250 undeveloped drill sites, for which funds are actively being sought.

Chris Tate, whose company, Maclean and Associates, staged the conference. is aware of the hostile investment environment in the oil and gas sector in Britain and is philosophical about his chents' prospects.

"If you you don't ask, you don't get anything," he said.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

income than in operating profits.

shares were steady at 395p.

Paterson takes charge

of £1m against profits

PATERSON Zochonis, the Cussons soap and toiletries group, has taken a El million hit against interim profits

earned in the six months to end-November because, in the past two weeks, the Nigerian naira has fallen 40 per cent. PZ, which is as famous for its cash mountain as it is for its Cussons range, continues to earn more in investment

In the half year to end-November, gross investment income was £7.41 million (£8.25 million) compared with operating profits of £6.03 million (£4.91 million). Pre-tax profit for the period rose to £11.63 million (£11.25 million), on turnover of £113.9 million (£108.5 million), and the

interim dividend rises to 2.25p (2.15p) a share. PZ said that

year-end pre-tax profits were likely to be broadly in line with

the £25.4 million earned in the year ended May 1991. The

Gatt expects modest 4% growth in world trade

BY COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

A MODEST recovery in world trade may be under way, but volume growth in goods is only expected to pick up to about 4 per cent this year after three consecutive years of slowdown, according to Arthur Dunkel, director-general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

In his annual report on international trade developments, out today, the Gatt chief says that merchandise trade grew about 3 per cent in volume terms last year, its poorest performance since 1983. There was an increase of only 1.5 per cent to \$3,530 billion, the smallest annual increase in value terms since

Exchange in Tokyo to lift fees

FROM A CORRESPONDENT

TOKYO Stock Exchange is to raise fees it charges listed companies and member brokerages in a move to redress its serious revenue shortage, said Minoru Nagaoka, the chairman. From April 1, the monthly fee for brokers, based on their capital size, will be tripled on average, while an annual fee for listed companies and a fee for newly listed firms will be doubled,

Mr Nagaoka said. The exchange expects the fee increases to boost revenue by 6.48 billion yen (£28.2 million), balancing revenue and expenditures for the fiscal year starting on April 1.

The exchange looks for a Y9.21 billion deficit for the year ending March 31, due to slumping stock prices and shrinking volume. It posted a deficit of Y9.9 billion in 1990-1. - In February, daily first-section volume averaged 196 million shares traded. breaking below 200 million shares for the first time since

Asked about the need to inject energy into the flagging market. Mr Nagaoka said he hoped the government would take action to bolster the economy and relax investor worries. "There are no more measures the 15 t can take to stabilise the market." The exchange has already relaxed regulations on margin trad-

1985. Incomplete data for the second half of last year points, however, to the deceleration in world trade having bottomed out and a "modest recovery" already in progress. The report notes that export and import volumes picked up in leading economies such as America. Canada and Britain.

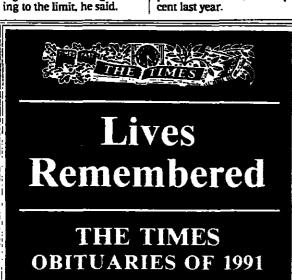
Gatt estimates show that growth in exports of commercial services, in value terms, also slowed last year, but that they remained more buoyant than trade in goods. Services were up 5 per cent at \$850 billion. The deadlocked Uruguay round of world trade talks include freer trade in services in the multilateral trading framework for the

The sharp slowdown in world trade growth in value terms last year, after 13.5 per cent expansion in 1990, was attributed to weaker volume growth, the impact of dollar appreciation against the ecu, and lower prices for a number of primary commodities, including oil, since the end of the Gulf war.

Mr Dunkei's report shows America recapturing the title of the world's leading goods exporter that it lost to Germany in 1989. Germany's trade pattern was heavily distorted by the impact of unification. Western Europe saw exports shrink 1.5 per cent in value terms, mainly reflecting German developments. American exports, benefiting from low inflation and low wage growth in America, rose 7.5 per cent in value, five times the world average, while German exports dropterms. The strongest regional growth in trade was regis-tered in Asia. Hong Kong replaced the former Soviet Union as the tenth biggest

The weakest performance came from the countries emerging from the collapsed Soviet empire, where the value of exports and imports slumped by 20 per cent and 25 per cent respectively.

Britain held on to its place as the world's fifth largest exporter and importer, trailing America, Germany, Jaoan and France on both fronts. But the value of Britain's imports, which grew 13 per cent in 1990, fell 6 per cent last year.



Obituaries are news, and The Times has greatly increased the space devoted to them each day. From the 900 or so published last year David Heaton and John Higgins have selected some 180 to provide a fascinating insight into the lives of all sorts of conditions of men and

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Reflecting on a hard fight: Geoffrey Dale, of Evans Halshaw, saw profits slip in hostile conditions

Evans Halshaw battles to £3.86m

By PHILIP PANGALOS

DESPITE the depressed conditions affecting its markets, Evans Halshaw Holdings, the multi-franchise motor dealer that is based in Birmingham, managed to contain the decline in full-year profits to a mere 6 per cent.

Pre-tax they slipped from £4.11 million to £3.86 million in the year to end-December, while sales, reflecting nat-ional trends, declined 11.2 per cent to a total of £339.7

Geoffrey Dale, chairman, said the performance was satisfactory in a year that saw "unprecedented falls" in new vehicle markets and "hostile" trading conditions generally.

Mr Dale said that all dealerships experienced reduced demand for new vehicles, although sales of luxury cars were "substantially" On a brighter note, used

car sales increased by 15 per cent, while profits from aftermarket services, including service and forecourts, advanced by 15 per cent. Commercial vehicles suffered a 29 per cent downturn, sliding to one of the lowest levels for

With industry forecasters anticipating an increase in car and truck sales in 1992. Mr Dale is optimistic on

He said that delayed re-

the group's fleet customers means that there is pent-up demand, while the changes in car taxation announced in the Budget are positive.

Interest payments were reduced to £3.24 million (£4.52 million). Earnings per share slipped to 11.7p (12.3p). The final dividend is being maintained at 7.65p, making an unchanged total of 11.25p

The shares rose 9p to 285p.

France launches enquiry into Glaxo drug publicity

By Wolfgang Münchau, European Business correspondent

THE French government is launching an investigation into the way Glaxo, the British pharmaceutical giant, is allegedly publicising Imigran, the potent anti-migraine drug, in France.
Imigran does not yet have

French government approval, which prevents Glaxo from marketing the drug, but awareness of Imigran is con-siderable after much publicity in the French media.

Glaxo said: "We have not received direct communication from the French government. If the reports we hear are correct, we would be sur-prised that the standing and the reputation of our French subsidiary has been put into question." News of the invesdigation led to a fall of Glaxo shares on the London stock

market by 12p to 771p.
Imigran is presently undergoing various approval procedures, a prerequisite for the official launch of a drug. France has some of the lowest pharmaceutical prices in Europe, and manufacturers need to negotiate prices with the French government. The French social affairs and health ministries, responsible for drug approval, are under-stood to be concerned at the likely high demand for the drug and the expected additional cost this would pose for the health insurance system.

Imigran is one of Glaxo's most important new drugs and will carry a hefty price. estimated about £7 per pill, or E350 for an annual treat-ment. This includes a significant margin to recoup the research and development costs, between £130 million and £150 million. Imigran forms a key element in the strategy of Sir Paul Girolami, chairman of Glaxo, to compensate for the slowdown in the growth of sales of Zantac. the world best selling drug.

The French government is trying to establish whether Glaxo acted improperly by promoting its drug through the French media, while it was still undergoing the official approval process. The enquiry into Glaxo's marketing methods will be carried out by what the government calls independent academics. The

issue could then be referred to the EC competition directorate that would find it difficult to ignore such a plea by the French government after strong criticism for having concentrated its efforts to investigate breaches of competition rules committed by French companies. The

French government recently forced a 20 per cent price cut-for Zocor, an anti-cholesterol drug made by Merck, the Ameriacn company, because sales exceeded initial

Letters, page 23



Key player: Sir Paul Girolami is looking to Imigran

Belgian group for Cresta

By Derek Harris

Holidays, is John Goulding, the holiday company's

quent profit performance.
The entire Cresta team, led by Mr Goulding, will stay on and the company will contin-ue to be based at Altrincham. Cheshire. It will be a separate operation from Bridge Group, Sun's other main UK

Bridge Group is market leader in short-break holi-days, typically to leading Eu-ropean cities. Thomson Holidays is second, and Cresta third, in this niche market, which has been a buoyant sector in package holidays.

Last year, Cresta carried

pays £8m

CRESTA Holidays, a leading short-breaks tour operator with sales of more than £30 million a year, has been sold for about £8.5 million to Sun International, of Belgium, one of the largest travel groups in Europe. Main shareholder in

Cresta World Travel, the holding company for Cresta founder managing director. Some Cresta managers have limited holdings in the company. The eventual payout

more than 100,000 passengers, an annual growth of a quarter. The private company has had steadily increasing profits in recent years, says Sun International, Mark Vanmoerkerke, chairman of Sun International's UK arm. and general manager of the Belgian operation, said he expected further turnover increases at Cresta this year.

Savage bounces back REDUCED interest costs helped Savage Group, the DIY shelving company, to return to the black with a pre-tax profit

snaving company, to return to the olack with a pre-tax profit of £676,000 in the six months to end-December (£816,000 loss) on turnover of £37.8 million (£62.5 million). Interest costs were £746,000 (£2.23 million) with gearing of 38 per cent (45 per cent). The company said further benefits were expected from cost savings. The loss per share is 0.3p (3.7p deficit). There is again no interim. The board sees a return to ordinate distinct this trans. The shares are the tax 42n are the savings. ordinary dividends this year. The shares rose 1p to 43p.

Hillsdown buys Holco

THE reorganisation of two of Britain's food groups, Albert Fisher and Hillsdown Holdings, continues with the sale of Holco, Albert Fisher's mushroom and asparagus processing company, to Hillsdown for £11.7 million cash. The company is being acquired by Hillsdown International, the European arm. The deal includes fixed assets, debtors, stock, the Holco brand name and Holco Konserven Vertriebe, the German sales company. Hillsdown shares rose 3p to 177p and Alben Fisher shares were unchanged at 67p.

Cray wins Navy work

SHREWSBURY Technology, a subsidiary of Cray Electronics, has won a multimillion pound contract for work on Royal Navy Invincible class aircraft carriers and Type 22 frigates. The company will support technical and engineering aspects of an electronic surveillance system. The contract, won against competition from several other contractors, is initially for a year but likely to last for three. Admiral Sir Brian Brown, a Cray director, said it underlined the company's commitment to the defence business.

Ernest Green slumps

SHARES in Ernest Green and Partners Holdings, the structural and civil engineering consultancy, fell 21p to 99p as the company blamed the continuing deep recession gripping the UK construction industry for a 69 per cent slump in first-half, pre-tax profits. The USM-quoted company's profits plunged to £342,000 (£1.11 million) in the six months to end-December, on turnover down 30.7 per cent to £4.02 million Experience didn't a 2 no a hour 18 cent to £4.03 million. Earnings slide to 2.9p a share (8.8p) but the interim dividend is being maintained at 2.75p.

Graseby rises to £10m

ACQUISITIONS helped Graseby, the electronics group, lift profits from £7.7 million before tax to £10.3 million in 1991. Tace and Goring Kerr contributed £3 million to trading profits of £13.24 million £11.8 million) in five months as fully-owned subsidiaries. Earnings rose to 13.8p a share (11.9p), but Graseby is maintaining the 10.9p total dividend with an unchanged 7.6p final, reflecting its cautious view of trading prospects. Trading margins rose from 9.9 per cent to 12.3 per cent.

Wellworth to be sold

ISOSCELES, the supermarket group that owns Gateway and Somerfield, will float FA Wellworth, its Northern Ireland supermarket chain. The group also confirmed it intended to sell Hermans, its American sports shop chain. Isosceles, which has £1.3 billion of debt, is due to repay £158 million in the next two years, with £100 million due in April next year. Hermans, with 259 stores, is valued on the balance sheet at £200 million. In the six months to November 9 1991, it made a trading loss of \$7.2 million

ICI issues notes

ICI is raising \$225 million through an issue of 75 per cent guaranteed notes due in March 1997, initially offered to the public at \$99.81. The notes are to be issued by ICI Wilmington, an American subsidiary, and will be unconditionally guaranteed as to payment of principal and interest by ICI. Merrill Lynch and Goldman Sachs are co-managers, and JP Morgan Securities and Morgan Stanley are also underwriters. Net proceeds will be used by the ICI group for the early repayment of existing debt.

Refuge raises payout

PROFITS at Refuge, the life assurance and financial services group, slipped 9 per cent to £12.6 million last year due to bad-debt provisions at its personal finance subsidiary. The group is nevertheless increasing its final dividend by 1.5p to 20p to make 29p for the year, up 8 per cent. Refuge made a £2.7 million provision at RLJ Finance, its personal loans business: The core life assurance business by contrast increased profits 13 per cent to £15.1 million as premium income gained 13 per cent to £213 million.

Europe dials up telephone deregulation

hat number do you dial for the fire brigade if your at goes up in flames when you are on holiday abroad? And what do you do if the phone is "cards only"? The EC's sol-ution to this and other telecommunications problems is to harmonise. By 1993, it wants its member states to all use the same emergency number - 112. And, when technology permits, it wants phone cards to work Europe-

By the year 2000, the EC's telecommunications industry could double in value and generate about 7 per cent of the Community's gross domestic product. officially published EC estimates show. If firms can offer uniform equipment and services EC-wide, economies of scale will mean savings of 10 billion ecus (£7.14 billion) in a market worth E80 billion in

For these reasons there have been many moves to promote standard equipment and ground rules, and edicts for deregulation of the industry at Community level.

Brian Love says the EC's telecommunications industry has high growth potential, provided member states forgo their present monopolies us in 1993," one said. "The represent about 90 per

The European Commission's most potent actions have been unilateral decisions to allow private firms to challenge the traditional monopoly of state companies. But some standardisation pro-posals depend as much on technological advances as on agreement by ministers to get industry to develop EC-

One plan to promote wider access to the telecommunications of the future - like integrated services digital networks (ISDN) — will allow the transmission of voice. data or video material along a single cable rather than separately as now. But industry sources say ISDN tech-nology itself will not be ready for full-scale application until after 1995.

Diplomats engaged in ne-

gotiating new standards agree. "It's not going to hit

technology isn't there yet." Liberalisation has already started, however, and has been vigorously enforced. An edict issued in mid-1988 means national telephone companies, which have long enjoyed a state-granted monopoly over almost everything to do with telecommunications, no longer have exclusive rights to sup-

phones. fax machines or switchboards. Another set of commission-imposed rules followed in 1990 and will be fully phased in by the end of the year to enshrine the right of private firms to use leased telecommunications lines to offer any service other than voice transmission.

ply equipment such as

While phone-calls - handled exclusively, except in

cent of income from telecoms services, data transmission and other value-added services are seen as the major growth sectors. Sir Leon Brittan competition commissioner, recently said the commission would review policy on voice telephony as soon as an enquiry into the cost of phone calls was completed, hinting for the first time that a crack at monopolies in that area was due. The European Court of Justice has backed the commission's right to apply EC competition rules to sidestep government approval and unilaterally liberalise the sector.

The rest of EC telecommunications policy is run by Filippo Pandolfi, EC commissioner, and is mainly in the form of Britain, by state monopolies proposals that need backing pondent based in Brussels

from national capitals and take more time to take effect. His most significant project so far is a green paper aimed at gradual liberalisation to give private firms access to spare satellite capacity to set up private internal communication links such as international tele-conferencing

The satellite green paper, seen as a blueprint for future proposals to liberalise the sector, emerged in late-1990 and has yet to get political endorsement from EC member states. EC diplomats say that despite support from countries such as Germany and Britain, the paper will meet stiff resistance from France and other countries that fear fresh cuts in the incomes of their national

telecommunications bodies. General agreement on the paper will have to be fol-lowed by negotiation on a string of legislative proposals and diplomats said liberalisation of this type is a long

The writer is a Reuters corres-

RECENT ISSUES Amicable Smaller Units (SOO) 463
Avonside Group (106) 102
Bodycore Insi (RFD) 378
Capital industries 1p 58
Fleming Inc. & Capital industries 1p
do- Zero Div Pf (30) 324 + 1
do- Units (100) 96 + 11
do- Zero Div Pf (30) 324 + 1
Fleming Japanese Warrams 34 + 1
Headlam Group (RFD) 70
Lloyds Smbr Co's Cap 1p (62) 60
Multitust Warrams 11
River & Merr In Inc 12 2p 103
do- Suppl pf 12 3p
Roselys (113) 123
Roselys (113) 123
Roselys (115) 171/92 100
RIGHTS ISSUES
Addison Consultancy N/P (12) 1,
Betpak 10p N/P (410) 108
British Vita N/P (212) 22
Caldwell Investments 10p N/P (77) 1,
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Raine Industries 10p N/P (95) 7 - 1
Raine Industries 10p N/P (95) 7 - 1 MAJOR CHANGES

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rederal sale of Lands of States

Me will distinct for private 111

Federal Express sale of UK arm costs 3,500 jobs

FEDERAL Express, the troubled American express delivery service, is axing 3,500 jobs in the United Kingdom and the Irish Republic as it withdraws from much of its domestic and inter-European

FedEx's UK domestic parcels distribution business is being sold to Securicor Omega Express, the express parcels arm of Security Services. Security Services is 51 per cent owned by Securicor and is the largest private-sector operator in the £1.6 billion UK express parcels business.

Securicor Omega claims a market share of 12 per cent and last year had sales of £208 million. In a cash deal, it is paying £2.6 million for goodwill and £4.5 million for assets of FedEx. Part of the deal is a 250-strong vehicle fleet. The FedEx domestic parcels turnover in the first two months of this year indicates the business will have an annual turnover of more than £40 million.

In a separate contract agreement, FedEx UK collections and deliveries outside London will be carried out by Securicor Omega while the UK arm of Australia's TNT will be the contractor for deliveries within the Irish

The UK's express parcels

should be regulated by one

organisation, if recommen-

dations made in Sir Kenneth

Clucas's report for the Securi-

ties and Investments Board

The report, published yes-

terday, says a new self-regula-tory organisation should be

created to cover all the busi-

ness regulated by the Finan-

cial Intermediaries Man-

agers and Brokers Regulatory

Association and the Life As-

surance and Unit Trust Reg-

business conducted with pri-

vate investors by Investment

Management Regulatory

Organisation members and

some clients of the Securities

Sir Kenneth also recom-

mends that the direct regula-

tion of about 100 companies

by SIB should be reviewed

and that recognition should

be withdrawn from the Insur-

ance Brokers Registration

Council. To change their res-

ulation status would require

A consumer panel should

enquire into, policies of the

new regulatory body, and the

legislation.

and Futures Authority.

flat for some time because of the recession. Securicor Omega claims it has gained business through an improving market share.

Last month, FedEx said it was actively looking to restructure its international operations to reduce losses. The bulk of its problems have been in Europe and the UK where at one time it employed about 8,000 people.

A year ago nearly 2,000 UK jobs went as it introduced several closures. Last autumn it agreed to sell back to Littlewoods, the privately-owned UK retailer, the Home Delivery Service that specialises in mail order deliveries.

The additional retrenchment now anhounced will leave FedEx still offering an intercontinetal service from 16 cities across Europe, including some in the UK. About 800 people will be retained in the UK.

FedEx will maintain its UK headquarters at High Wyoombe together with a Coventry operation, its collection and delivery services at Enfield, Vauxhall and Heathrow, and its airport facilities at Prestwick, Stansted and Heathrow.

Frederick Smith, FedEx Corporation president, said: "The operations needed to

One watchdog proposed

for private investment

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

members of the new organ-

ficient that they can con-

stitute a majority with either

the product providers or the

Sir Kenneth also recom-

mends that the chairman of

the new self-regulatory organ-

isation should come from out-

side the industry. It will be up

to the members of Fimbra.

Lautro. Imm and the SFA

whether the proposals to

streamline and make more

effective investor protection

independent practitioners.

isation's board should be suf-

ALL private investment number of public interest

of the market, has been fairly . service have been extremely costly and we have not generated adequate revenues to cover our costs. In addition, the market in Europe has not developed express traffic as quickly at we had expected." PedE to business logistics service is not affected by the

> There are to be 3,372 jobs lost in England, Scotland and Wales, 37 in Northern Ire-land and 125 in the Republic. Securicor Omega said that, subject to review, it may re-cruit some FedEx personnel made redundant.

Securicor Omega will be the sole contractor for the FedEx international parcels distribution business to and from Britain, outside the M25 area. Roger Wiggs, Secunity Services chief executive, commented: "These agree-ments afford us an excellent opportunity to expand our UK domestic parcels business and to offer all our customers intercontinental services in association with a leading international carrier."

TNT Express Worldwide said that as a FedEx subcontractor it would handle inbound deliveries from America and the rest of the world in some ten European countries. It added that Chronoservice, the FedEx domestic French business, has

go ahead. There could be

resistance from Lautro and

Imro members who will not

want to foot the bill for

compensating the customers

Godfrey Jillings, chief exec-

utive of Fimbra, said: "We

give the report a warm and

Kit Jebens, chief executive of Lautro, said: "It seems to

us from an investor protec-

tion point of view a good idea.

It is up to the membership

tive of Imro, said: "The board

of Imro would not welcome

any suggestion that the scope

of Imro should be narrowed.'

The report suggests that

about 30 per cent of its mem-

bership should transfer to the

Sir David Walker, chair-

man of SIB, said: "The case

for a new SRO, to reduce

fragmentation and improve

the robustness of the regula-tory structure, is compellingly

made out." The report recom-

mends that the new SRO

should be set up to shadow

the work of the existing SROs

until it was ready to take over

whether it will go ahead."

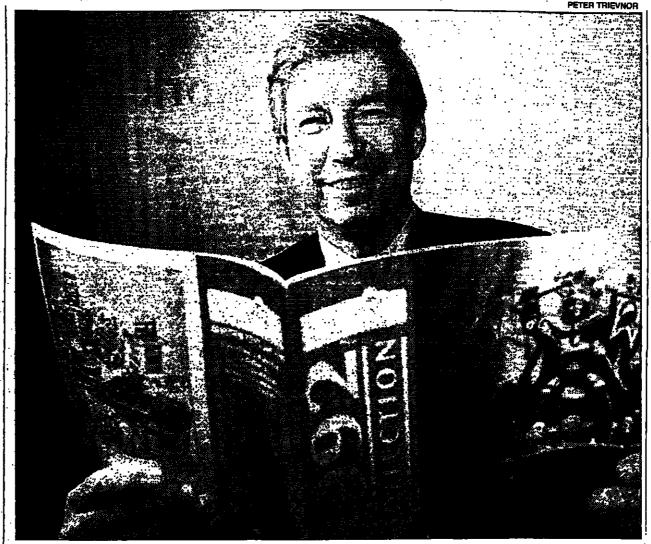
of brokers.

strong welcome."

JOHN MOTERI

new SRO.

from them.



Looking on the bright side: Torquil Norman, chairman, expects recent profitability to be maintained

Bluebird tumbles deeper into red

By MATTHEW BOND

BUOYANT overseas sales compensated Bluebird Toys for dismal domestic demand in 1991. Orders from abroad rose by half to £11 million, and now account for more than a quarter of the quoted

toymaker's sales.
The improvement was not sufficient, however, to prevent a pre-tax loss of £3.5 million for the year to December 31, compared with a loss of £856,000 last time. For the second year, there is no final dividend.

Torquil Norman, chair-man, was encouraged by the company's performance in the second half, which pro-duced a pre-tax profit of £924,000, against just £40,000 last time.

"In the light of the better outlook for overseas sales and steps taken to rationalise our UK operations, the board is confident — bearing in mind our normal seasonal trading pattern — of contin-uing progress," he said.

caused by restructuring costs, which have been taken as a \$3.5 million exceptional item. Rationalising the prod-uct range, including writing off tooling and artwork, cost £2.2 million and moving Peter Pan Playthings from Peterborough to Merthyr Tydfil cost £1.2 million.

The group now has one factory, at Merthyr Tydfil, and one administration site, at Spindon A House Mere.

at Swindon. A Hong Kong office is responsible for Far East production and distribution. Despite tight stocking by

retailers, the company man-aged to reduce year-end stocks by half to £4.4 million.

Dunlop Slazenger to be fined by EC for operating a cartel

FROM TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

DUNLOP Slazenger International, the EC's biggest maker of squash and tennis balls, has fallen foul of Community competition rules and will be fined by the European Commission today.

Sources close to the commission confirmed that Sir Leon Brittan's competition investigators had found that Dunlop Slazenger, part of the BTR group, operated an exclusive distribution cartel on the Continent and went to extraordinary lengths to stop its goods being sold by nonauthorised sports shops. "It's a major case," said one

yet been decided, but the Finance in place for £690m power station

By MARTIN WALLER

THE £690 million private gas-fired power station at Barking planned by Thames Power, in which BICC, the cables to construction group. has an interest, was given final approval with the completion of project financing.

One of the lenders is the European Investment Bank, talling £200 million, the first financing from the bank for a power project in Britain.

Thames Power is halfowned by BICC and ATCO, the Canadian utilities concern, and has a 51 per cent stake in the station. Three regional electricity companies. Southern. Eastern and London, own the rest and have agreed to take the power produced when the plant opens in April 1995.

Building at the site, near the River Thames, will start on July 1 this year. Yesterday was the final deadline for the financing to be put in place under the terms of the 15-

year supply contract agreed with British Gas. The station has to build an 18km (10 miles) pipeline to transport the fuel from the national transmission system operated

by British Gas. BICC and the Canadians are putting in equity funding of £94.4 million. A syndicate credit of £661 million.

The scheme is only the sixth independent power generation project in Britain to reach such an advanced stage, after dozens were planned in the run-up to the privatisation of the electricity industry. Another three projects are awaiting firm

financing. Robin Biggam, chairman of BICC and Thames Power, said: "The project has not been without its difficulties." The site had to be moved, a former chief executive quit. and there was a wrangle with commission is entitled to impose a penalty of up to 10 per cent of a company's annual The competition director-

ate decided to investigate Dunlop Slazenger after receiving a complaint from Newitt, a British sports goods distributor, which claimed that it was prevented from buying Dunlop Slazenger equipment in Britain for resale on the Continent.

The commission has taken a tough line against companies trying to prevent so-called "parallel imports" if they then establish networks of dealerships that set widely different prices from one country to another.

Dunlop Slazenger was found to have bought back its products from companies it did not want to sell them, and also to have undercut unwanted exporters with the aim of pricing them out of the

The company has operated its illegal system since 1977. according to commission sources, who said the Benelux market had been the one most affected.

☐ BTR, which is looking hard at its expanded operations after the takeover of Hawker Siddeley, says its 59 per cent indirect interest in Hawker Siddeley Canada and its 41 per cent stake in that company's preferred shares is under review.

BTR has undertaken to cut gearing from its 89 per cent level at the end of December and earlier this week announced two asset sales for £33.1 million.

Selling Hawker Siddeley Canada could raise up to £107 million.

Wimpey in loss but pegs

tracting company, has reported a pre-tax loss of £16.1 million for 1991, after making a £12 million provision against its involvement in the Channel tunnel project and writing down its house-building and commercial property assets by more than 100 million.

The losses compare with a £43.3 million profit in 1990. Wimpey shares, however, rose lop to 147p, for the company maintained its final dividend at 6.5p (giving an unchanged total of 10.5p). That required a £30.5 million

transfer from reserves.
Sir Clifford Chetwood, chairman, said business in the UK and America was

improving.
In the first quarter, the company's house sales in Britain have been 10 per cent ahead of expectations; even stronger recovery is indicated in America.

Joe Dwyer, chief executive. said the group's positive cash flow of £107 million had been important in its decision to pay an uncovered dividend for the second year running.

Since Mr Dwyer succeeded Sir Clifford as chief executive l6 months ago, the company has raised about £300 million from disposals. It has sold a waste management business for £105 million and a 50 per cent interest in a City office development for £110

Tempus, page 22

Trace jumps

Trace Computers, a computer software group, lifted pre-tax profits from £31,000 to £221,000 in the six months to November 30, despite turnover slightly lower at £9.72 million, against £9.95 million last time. Earnings per share jump to 1.59p, up from 0.06p a share last time. The interim dividend is being maintained at 0.55p.

Celestion down

Celestion Industries, a clothing, swimwear and audio group, is maintaining its single dividend at 1.2p, despite a pre-tax loss of £1.06 million in the year to December 31 against a profit of £951,000. Sales fell by 12 per cent to £36.6 million. Charles Ryder, chief executive, expects the group to make a "strong recovery" this year.

Bid cleared

Carlton Communications 68 million bid for Pickwick a music and videotape distributor, will not be referred to the monopolies commission. The recommended bid, announced in January, takes Carlton into large-scale prerecorded sales for the first

Prospect buys

Prospect Industries, a supplier to the power generation industry, is paying up to £2.4 million for Greenbank Industries, which makes abrasive and chemical resistant anducts. Greenbank is based in Lancashire and has a subsidiary in Chicago.

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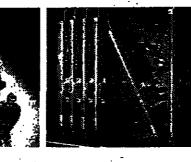
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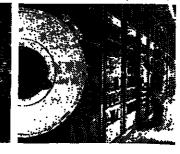
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The medicine starts to work at Wimpey

THERE can be no doubt that Joe Dwyer has successfully completed the first half of his job as chief executive of George Wimpey — a 16p rise in the share price to 146p

was witness to that. The second half, of course is a rather different matter, with much depending on the timing of any eventual recovery and the individual flair that Mr Dwyer can - and indeed must — bring to the construction group's future. But the impressive recent progress cannot be ignored. Most crucially Mr Dwyer has succeeded in stabilising

Wimpey's balance sheet. By disposing of assets worth up to £300 million, net borrowings have been reduced to £206 million and gearing to 35 per cent.

The possibility of further property sales leaves the door open to further

By cutting gearing. Mr Dwyer has reduced the pace at which Wimpey has to run to stand still. But that is just as well, given the current state of the company's core

In construction Wimpey is making a £12 million pro-vision against its involvement in TML, the channel tunnel contractor. More worrylngly, the size of the order-book has fallen by 40 per cent to £700 million. earnings multiple of 18 looks expensive, but perhaps not for a company that appears to have survived the recession sans right issue. Buy.

Housebuilding, too, has serious problems, despite a rather meaningless pre-election report of recent improvement. At 6,380, the number of houses sold in Britain is up on last year but the £65,500 average selling price is down for the third

An average plot price for the company's 14,719-plot and bank of £13,000 bodes well for the future. But after a £30 million exceptional write down — shared with North America housebuilding — it should do.

A pre-tax loss of £16.1 million is not the most promising of starts, but the marked improvement in the balance sheet has won Mr

Assuming no further decline in housebuilding and no more problems with the Channel tunnel contract, County NatWest believes profits of more than £32 million are possible this year, rising to £55 million in 1993.

current year price/

Watmoughs (Holdings)

WATMOUGHS (Holdings), the printer of colour supple-ments, mail order catalogues and brochures accompanied its results with news that it has secured a further five year contract for The Sunday Times colour magazine. The group prints annual reports for 150 companies, and intends to increase the number to 200 within two years. It also says that profits are-

Coming so soon after last month's soul-baring at the time of its one-for-four rights issue at 350p, to raise £22.3 million, there were few surprises in the results statement for the year ended

Pre-tax profits were £8.1 million against £11.6 million, the final dividend is 8p a share, making 10.5p, up from 10.25p, for the year. Gearing that was 30 per cent

at year-end has eliminated.

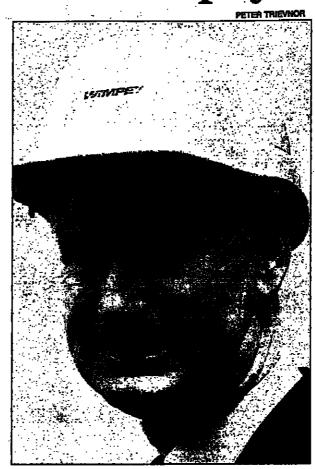
Even allowing for the tra-ditional weight of the second half, and stripping out ac-quisition benefits, profits re-bounded in the second half, after a poor interim, and the recent venture into Hungary is showing signs of promise. Long-term contracts to print three weekly magazines in Spain, which the rights-

Watmoughs' master-plan is for three printing hubs in Britain, for western Europe and Scandinavia; Madrid, for Spain, Portugal and Italy; and Budapest for the Austrian and eastern European markets.

funded new gravure printing facility will handle, also holds

On 1992 pre-tax profits hopes of £12.6 million, earnhopes of £12.6 million, earnings would be 27.9p a share, and therefore shy of adjusted net earnings of 31.5p a share seen in 1990. But at that level, net earnings would show a near 35 per cent improvement on adjusted 1001 bands. 1991 levels.

At 420p, up 5p, the rating of 15 times prospective earnings is underpinned by renewal of The Sunday Times



Success under his hat: Joe Dwyer of Wimpey

STOCK MARKES SEE

Lonrho shares bounce back on bid speculation

trading group headed by Roland "Tiny" Rowland, with only 450 million shares traded. Longer-dated issues year low with a rise of 14p to rallied by more than f 2. 99p as the City decided the shares were a takeover play.

Lonrho's share price has tumbled from a peak of 277p and fund managers are increasingly restless about the group's management style. They are expected to voice their complaints at the annual meeting scheduled for March 26. The price fell sharply on Monday as speculation grew that Lonrho will be dropped from the FT-SE 100 index today because of its poor performance. The fall in the share price has seen the company's market value drop to £650 million. Last night there was speculation about a bid from Hanson, which fin-

ished 5p better at 223p.
It is whispered in the Square Mile that Lonrho

Renold, a gear and chain maker, is bracing itself for a takeover bid from TT, an acquisitive industrial hold-ing group that has lifted its shareholding from 2.9 per cent to 4.4 per cent. Renold shares, which gained 9½ p on Monday, rose a further 1½p to 57p, while TT advanced 1p to 200p.

might dispose of its holding in Western Platinum, reckoned to be worth £1 billion. Gencor, South Africa's second largest mining house, would be an obvious bidder. Elsewhere, the bears were beginning to feel the squeeze as prices clawed back some of their recent losses in the wake of last week's Budget and worries in the City about the outcome of the election. Prices closed near their best of the day, helped by an over-night bounce in New York and a firm start to early trading yesterday. The index rose 20.5 to 2,491.2 as dealers

LONRHO, the international rushed to cover short posit-

British Vita, a polymer products group, held steady at 237p as County NatWest WoodMac, Warburg Securities and BZW all urged clients to take up the group's £73 million rights issue, being offered at 212p. Analyst Ian John says County takes a favourable view of the company's growth prospects.

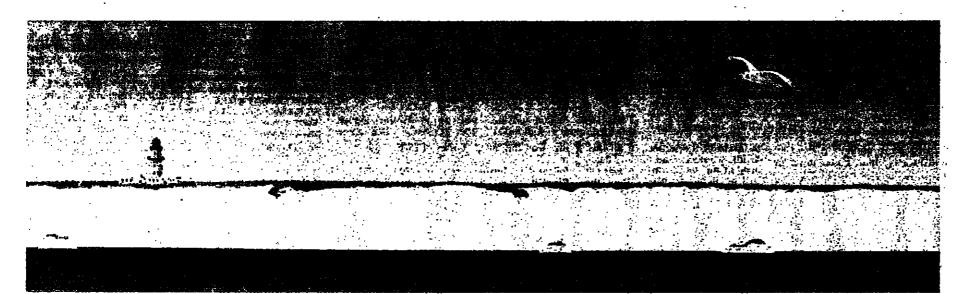
Most early business centred on news of the proposed merger between Mid-land Bank and its 15 per cent shareholder. Hongkong & Shanghai. Midland responded to the news with a leap of 76p to 329p as more than 21 million shares were traded.

The development focused attention on the banking sector. Abbey National rose op to 275p. Its lack of exposure to overseas lenders and strong base in the domestic housing market are likely to make it attractive to institutions. There were also gains for Bank of Scotland, 4p to 111p, Barclays, 5p to 341p, and National Westminster. 7p to 302p. Lloyds, however, lost ground, falling 6p to 388p amid wild talk in the market that it might make a

counter offer for Midland. Glam fell 12p to 771p in further response to plans for an inquiry into tactics used by the group in marketing its

migraine treatment Imigran.
The decision of George Wimpey to maintain its dividend, despite a pre-tax loss, and optimistic remarks about trading lifted the shares by l6p to 147p. There were also gains for Taylor Woodrow, 5p to 116p, AMEC, 4p to 132p, and Tarmac, 6p to 127p, Markey reporting to 127p. Markey, reporting to-day, rose 3p to 119p. MICHAEL CLARK

UNLIKE THE PRICE OF BRITISH COAL,



THE FORECAST FOR OTHER FUELS IS CHANGEABLE.



Some fuel prices are about as unpredictable as the British weather. Take oil for instance. The majority of the world's long-term reserves are in the Middle East, which means the chances of a consistent price are about as likely as persistent rain in Riyadh

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MARY COLLINS 071-481 4481

Britain still the

New York - Shares opened points to 3,245.30 in mornhigher, encouraged by data ing trading after struggling

showing that the American to maintain opening gains. economy is improving. A Rises outnumbered falls by bounce in Tokyo stocks also seven to four. Shares should helped. The Dow Jones in- be helped by firmer bonds,

dustrial average gained 8.94 analysts said.

Part.

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4" A" - -

Britain still deep in recession

uring the recession in Britain, it has been widely noted that we appear to be suffering from an Anglo-Saxon malaise. Not only were our North American cousins afflicted, but the Antipodes were struck down with the same affliction. But now our own recovery is proving alarmingly elusive. The disturbing 1.3 per cent fall in Britain's industrial production in January could not have come at a worse time for a government. seeking to foster confidence. Manufacturing industry is clearly seeking to retrench, as indicated in the 0.9 per cent decline over the last three months, which leaves it shrinking at an annual 3.3 per cent. This strongly suggests a fresh leg of its sectoral recession. And the Confederation of British Industry's most recent survey gives little grounds to hope that industry is about to display its former boldness. All in all, the first quarter of 1992 is starting to look like the seventh quarter of recession, at least for Britain.

A worrying feature of the production data is that engineering and allied industries, key to our export hopes, saw output shrink 1.2 per cent in the latest three months. With little sign of domestic demand strong enough to revive the engineering sector, some economists are starting to worry that import penetration might be starting to rear its head again. A deteriorating trade balance would be an unwelcome accompaniment to dramatically

worsening government finances. Australia came out of recession officially yesterday, managing two successive quarters of growth, while America reported what looks almost like the start of a housing boom and a return to rising industrial output. From Britain's vantage point, we can only look on in envy at those countries still free to cut their interest rates to match their... economic needs. Given current sterling weakness, we can but wait for Helmut Schlesinger.

Good, bad and ugly

¬ he good news is that at last there are some soundly based, workable proposals for reform of the mish-mash of bodies which regulate the investment business. They emerged yesterday from the Clucas report which suggested that they be scrapped and replaced with one organisation to look after the interests of private investors. The Financial Services Act should have created such a body but failed to do so.

The bad news is that, however sensible the reforms, they can be ignored in effect by the member firms of the self regulatory bodies which would be subjected to abolition or merger. For the current regulatory system does not allow the members of the Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation, the Financial Inter-mediaries Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association or any other SRO member to be compelled to join a new organisation. SIB cannot turn away people who want to be regulated directly and the Insurance Brokers' Registration Council could not be scrapped without legislation.

This apparent nonsense strains the credibility of self-regulation and may not survive too long under a new Government. Sir Kenneth Clucas suggests how rationalisation can be achieved, what safeguards can be put in place to stop interested parties getting their way at the expense of investors and how the transition period can be handled safely. He also wants a much stronger say for consumers. It will be up to investment companies to do the decent thing. If they do not, then their customers must draw the obvious conclusion. Self regulation is too important to be left to the self

Midland finally embarks on its oriental marriage of convenience

Graham Searjeant

reports on how the Midland, once the

largest bank in the world, is looking east to rediscover its destiny.

idland Bank's engage ment with the Hong-kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, which in 1990 seemed as dead as the strategy of its chairman Sir Kit McMahon, is on again in earnest.
The marriage would not be made in

heaven, but could have considerable

The banns were never read the first time because both parties were in trouble. Midland's troubleshooters were turning their eyes at last from the Latin American debt book only to find the bank had read the domestic recession late and suffered unknown losses compounded by its me-too expansion into high profile corporate lending for big bids, deals and developments. Back in Hong Kong, William Purves' ambitious expansion into America, via Marine Midland, had turned as sour as the economy and property prices and his attempt to gain market share in Australia had run up a tally of bad debts. Had the two managed to

stagger to the altar, investors would

have boycotted the ceremony. The relationship was, however, left hanging in the air. Hongkong and Shanghai retained the 15 per cent of Midland it had built up, with Sir Kit's blessing, in 1987 by backing a share issue to bolster Midland's depleted capital. That deal carried a three-year agreement to carried a three-year agreement to co-operate and keep the stake unchanged with a view to a final merger. As the deadline approached, a decision had to be made. The formal abandonment left HSBC showing a large loss on its original £340 million investment and a return that was small and dwindling as Midland progressively cut its dividend. The initiative over Midland's future was firmly an-

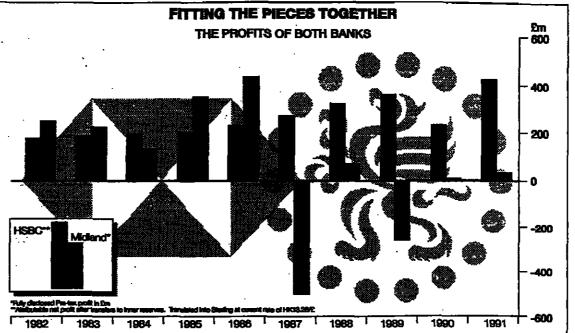
chored in Hong Kong.

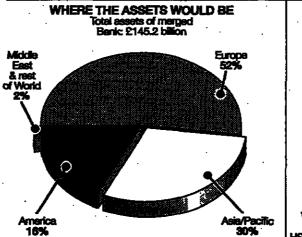
If the Midland stake looked uncomfortable in the HSBC balance sheet, the two banks had something more longstanding and psychologically deeper in common. In a Lutyens bank parlour in the City and in a Norman Foster tower in Hong Kong lurked ambitions for a destiny on the world stage, based ultimately on fear.

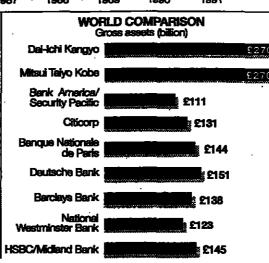
The merged group would be truly international and of world-class size, In the Nineties, however, the focus may be more on depositors than borrowers and an OECD study, published yesterday, questions whether the trend for banks to concentrate in ever larger financial congiomerates will last much longer. The internationalisation of banks, it notes, "has not been an unambigu-

ous success story".

Within living memory, Midland could have laid a claim to be the largest bank in the world. It had







pioneered postwar developments from the international network to personal loans and the bank cheque card. The Midland was also seen in the British banking community as a brash, awkward outsider, not least because its chairmen were rarely career or hereditary bankers.

The Midland's troubles really started as long ago as 1968, the year of the great British bank mergers. National Provincial teamed up with the Westminster. The monopolies commission stopped the agreed merger of Barclays and Lloyds, but Barclays was still much enlarged by a takeover of Martins. In all this, Midland, which had already fallen behind Barclays in Britain, was left out in the cold. Charles Raw, the journalist, raised what must then have seemed an alarmist question: "Can Midland now survive on its strategy ever since.

Thwarted at home, Midland eventually turned abroad. In 1980, its pent-up ambition led to the purchase of Crocker National, a California bank that brought with it the apparently desirable business connections and loan book it had built up in Latin America. In two waves, Crocker's domestic energy and pro-perty loans and its Third World debt brought Midland to its knees. The damage started in 1984:

Midland was forced to retreat, selling Crocker to America's Wells Fargo bank but obliged to keep the Latin American debt. The extent of that obligation was well-known in banking circles. Sir Kit McMahon, deputy governor of the Bank of England, was dispatched to Midland's Poultry headquarters on a

To the wider public, the extent of Midland's burden was still unclear when, in the heady days before the 1987 crash, the Saatchi & Saatchi advertising group planned an abortive bid for the clearing bank, thinking it on the mend. Losses of £505 million were reported for 1987, followed by further losses in 1989. Sir Kit sorted that out but his strategy still had elements of the old ambition, by now beyond Midland's demoralised management.

n shrinking, Midland sold solid retail banking networks, putting the proceeds into wholesale business, finance for corporate deals and bewildering retail banking initiatives. Its strategic thinking moved to forging the international alliance with HSBC. Sir Kit hit troubles at home. The Bank of England again glided into action, easing in Sir Peter Walters, the latest non-banker chairman, and Brian Pearse, Barclays sober fi-

mess. They show every appearance of doing so, but Midland seemed at last to have no answer left to that question posed in 1968.

The Hong Kong and Shanghai had swelled profitably with the growth of Hong Kong, where it embodied the respectability of a note-issuing bank. There was a snag: Hongkong Bank was the big-gest business with the highest profile in an occasionally volatile colonial enclave whose future was ticking away. Even before the accord on Hong Kong's transfer to China in 1997, it needed to branch out. When it moved into Britain in

1981, making an unwelcomed bid for the Royal Bank of Scotland, it found itself viewed down the Roman nose of Lord Richardson, the tetchy governor of the Bank of England, as its place. This disdain owed much to the Bank's own discreet marriage bureau, which had already blessed a union between Royal and Standard Chartered, the British international bank. In the event, and to the Bank's chagrin, both bids were turned down in the monopolies commis-sion on the last occasion the Scottish trump was successfully played there. The MMC noted objections that monetary control and the Bank's influence by nod and wink might be

undermined. "The Bank of England also argued strenuously that the acquisition of Royal Bank Group by HSBC would be against the public interest, because ultimate control of the group would be transferred over-seas". The report added tartly: "Some of the arguments have not seemed to us wholly persuasive".

Mr Purves, who succeeded to the chair at HSBC in 1986, nonetheless took the cue and kept in touch with the Bank. The deal with Sir Kit could hardly have been reached without the approval of the central bank, which was by then much more relaxed. In any case, 1993 was approaching and even continental banks could not indefinitely be treated as doubtful foreigners. That move to a single European market is much in Mr Purves' thoughts and, in 1990, HSBC moved its registered home to Britain with one eye on protecting its back from China. Despite the disparity of profits and market value, more than half the assets of a combined Midland and HSBC would be in Europe.

n Hong Kong, recovery is at a much more advanced stage than in Poultry. Australian exposure has been contained, losses at Marine Midland have been cut and, in a notable exercise of tough management, the group has turned James Capel, its over-ambitious investment in the securities business, from loss to profit. HSBC has the advantage, long given up in London and New York, of being able to play tunes on its accounts through hidden reserves. Even so, the near doubling of profits in 1991 provided the rising share price needed as a platform for a bid.

The merger is, however, still far from a foregone conclusion. The Bank of England, having been "kept informed", may feel more relief than alarm. There are other regulators, either in Brussels, or a Whitehall whose masters are as yet unknown. The rating agencies must be kept on board. The terms of the issue will need to be carefully judged to keep them and Midland shareholders happy. Even in truncated form. Midland is capable of making £650 million pre-tax profit in two or three years time and might make £1 bil-lion in the fair wind and boom.

HSBC has also moved to bring matters to a head. If it is not to buy Midland, now is the time for some other bank to buy HSBC's underperforming investment. Midland, as the weakest of the big four, has been flirting with Lloyds, whose caution has made it the smallest but strongest. The successful Lloyds' team will soon retire and it has strategic decisions to make. A mergtition authorities. Lloyds cannot be ruled out, but Midland clearly realised HSBC posed fewer questions and might offer more since it had only to buy 85 per cent.

Mr Purves' nerve might also be tested by continental banks. For the authorities in the City and Whitehall, as well as bankers, the worst nightmare might be a knockout bid from a state-owned French bank. The long Midland saga promises a

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Elementary for Watson

THE retirement of Det Chief Insp Graham Watson from the City of London Police could turn out to be their loss and the corporate world's gain. Watson, aged 48, attached to the Serious Fraud Office, completed his 30 years of service in the force with a two-year stint leading the Barlow Clowes investigation on behalf of the SFO. The investigation began in June 1988, when Peter Clowes was arrested. "I was extremely surprised by the scale of the fraud," says Watson, whose retirement from the force has already taken effect, although he does not officially leave until next month. That retirement will, however, be short-lived. Watson, described as popular, hard working and conscientious by colleagues, begins a new job on April 6, with Kingsciere Consultants, a division of Sigma Security Group, which has been involved in investigating some aspects of the Maxwell empire. "I will be doing corporate investigations: fraud enquiries, loss prevention, any sort of internal investigative work within companies." Watson says. After his firsthand experience of the Barlow Clowes operation, he will also be exceptionally cautious about investing his nest egg when he receives it in April. "I will be talking to two of the clearing banks, to the building societies and maybe to one or two professional advisers, but not to anyone who receives commission. And no, there is absolutely no way I will put it all with one



of a Chinese dragon."

Taking the Mickey OF THE 80 or so official

Euro Disney tour operators, not all are as accommodating as Bruce Peters and Russel Grocott: Originally, they es-Mouse Trips UK, only to be told by Disney - dearly suffering from a sense of humour failure - that it was not prepared to travel with a company called Mouse. They have decided to call themselves Magic Trips UK, instead, but customers can reach them at their head office at the former Boys' British School in Saffron Walden, Essex, which old boys will be delighted to know, has now been renamed Mouse Hall.

One that got away ATTEMPTS to clean up the heavily industrialised areas of Teesside — within a stone's throw of several large ICI plants - have met with mixed success. In an attempt by the National Rivers Authority to demonstrate that the river Tees near Stockton was teem-

ing with fish, it offered £175 to the person who caught the most fish during a competition. Hoping to tip the odds in its favour, the NRA even brought in a boat stocked with expensive sonar equipment to locate the best spots. However, it all ended rather embarrassingly. Despite casting their lines for almost six hours, 50 anglers were un-able to catch one fish between them...with one exception. The sole (sorry) catch of the day went to a teenager who landed a flounder but threw it back, deeming it to be too

THE latest joke doing the rounds among white South Africans: What is the difference between a ves vote and a no vote? A yes vote gives you more time to pack.

Wickhamist

CHRISTOPHER Wickham, a 30-year-old food and beverage analyst with Lehman Brothers International, is the last person to be admitted as a member of the Stock Exchange. The exchange, planning to transfer all individual memberships from the stock exchange to the newly created Securities Institute, despite the resistance of many of the members, admitted Wickham last week, even though the membership system will survive in its present form for only another two weeks. "It has all come as a bit of a surprise and it is all quite amusing," says Wickham, who, as his name suggests, is also a Wykhamist. "Yes," he adds, "the exchange seemed to find that the most amusing

CAROL LEONARD

Glaxo R&D justifies good profit

Sir, Your correspondent J. C. Porteous (Business Letters, March 6) omits one vital factor in his suggestion that Glaxo's profits will fall because of their reduction in

discount allowed to chemists.

Glaxo spends about £500 million a year on research and development and so far has been successful in discovering new drugs to meet longfelt needs. Fortunately, it is able to patent these discoveries, although patents run out in a ridiculously short time.

Surely Glaxo are entitled to the benefits they have found as a result of their work and investment? All the chemist has to do is hand the stuff

doctor's prescription. As soon as the patent runs out, other companies step in, steal the analysis and make a smaller profit, whilst Glaxo no longer gets any benefit. It is a hard life for Glazo but so far they have wonderfully surmounted these problems.

I suggest that if any sympathy is being handed out it should go to Glaxo rather than these pirate companies or the chemists, who will still do very nicely, thank you.

A. F. ROUSELL. 5 Calverley Court, Calverley Park Gardens, Tunbridge Wells,

Change has alienated retail pharmacists

From Mrs L. F. Ralph Sir, Whatever the intention of

Glaxo's decision to change distribution methods, they have succeeded in alienating retail nharmacists. I do not think Mr Lance

(Business Leners, March 12) will find one community phar-

macist who will speak in favour of the change. Has he read the pharmaceutical press recently? Yours faithfully. FRANCESCA RALPH, Walton Pharmacy. 23 Wendover Road,

Aylesbury,

Buckinghamshire.

The Budget statement and statistics

From Mr J. E. Kidgell

Sir. Your Budget coverage (March 11) stated incorrectly that, from the end of this year, figures for UK trade would cease to be published monthly. In fact, the change in VAT reporting announced in the Budget statement will have no significant effect on the The abolition of customs bar-

riers between EC countries at the end of 1992 requires the introduction of a new system for collecting intra-EC trade data. While this system,

Intrastat, is bedding down during 1993, there will be a delay in the publication of monthly trade figures. Intrastat will include a monthly statistical return by the largest traders which will enable the Central Statistical Office to publish monthly trade figures. In due course, these will be published within about six weeks of the end of each month.

Yours faithfully J. E. KIDGELL (Head of Division 3) Central Statistical Office, Great George Street, SW1.

High street banks have lost the personal touch

From Mr S. A. Ettinger Sir, For 40 years I have used a

high street bank for my personal and business accounts. Over this period I have seen bank managers come and go and they have become my personal friends, both before and after their retirement.

They were managers who actually managed, making decisions to our mutual ad-

I find that recently things

are very different, the relationship between my bank and me has become very impersonal and the manager no longer has power to use his own discretion, but must follow a rigid set of instructions

laid out for him. Reluctantly, after so many

different bank, only to find the same principles applied. Could any of your readers suggest a bank to me, run in

years with one bank, I tried a

profit for themselves while still assisting customers? Yours faithfully, S. A. ETTINGER, Stewart Gallery. 25 Grove Road, Eastbourne,

the old manner, i.e. to make a

Letters to The Times **Business and Finance** section can be sent by fax on 071-782 5112.

MORTGAGES NOTICE OF INTEREST RATE VARIATION

The following changes apply to loans drawn prior to 17th February 1992 and are effective from the first payment date on or after 27th March 1992.

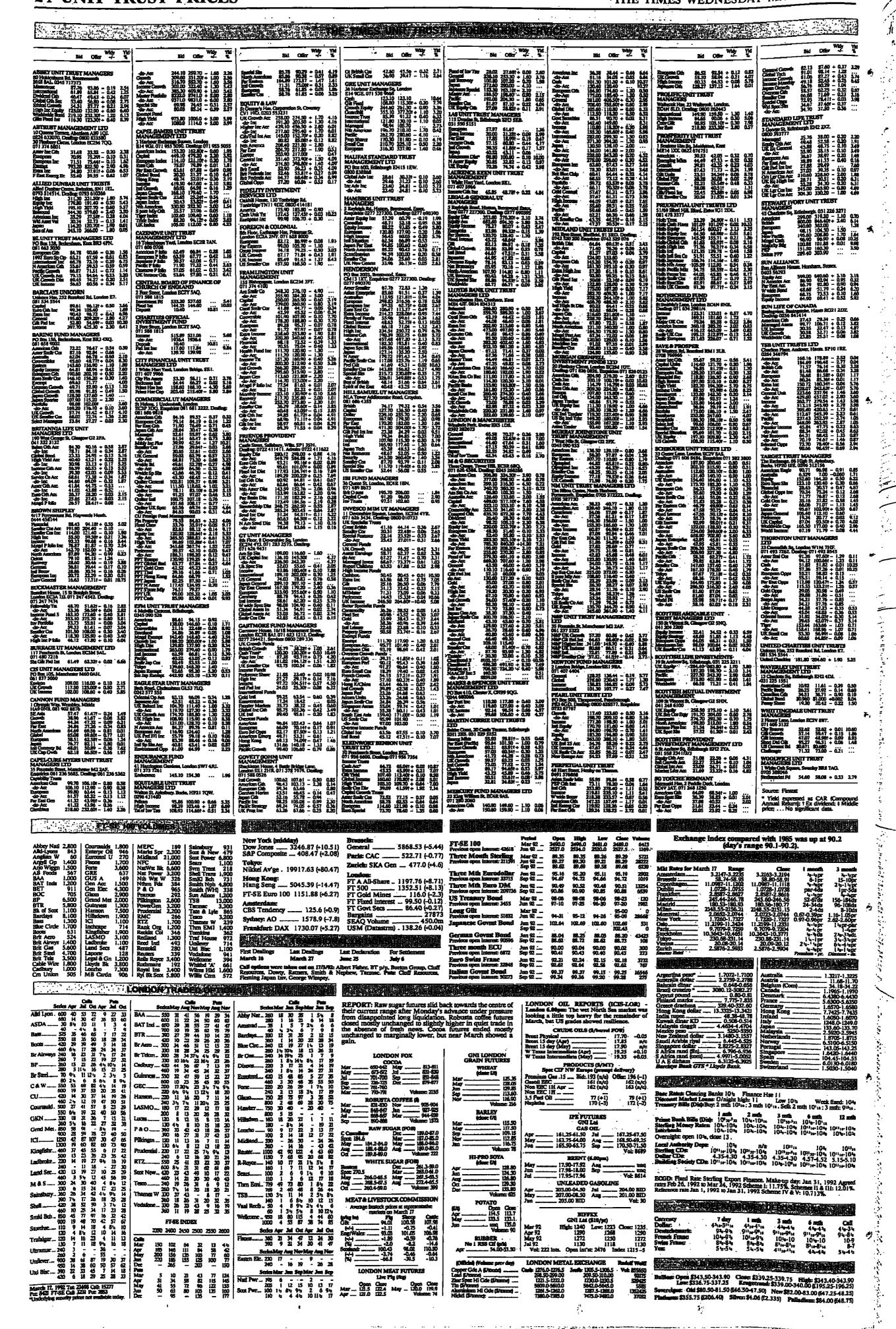
> Home Loan Rate reduced by 0.55% to 10.95% per annum.

Stabilised Charging Rate reduced by 0.5% to 11.25% per annum.

> This does not apply to loans from Central Banking Services.



Head Office: The Mound, Edinburgh EHI 1YZ.



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MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years) 130⁴hz 118⁴⁵hz 90⁴⁵m 80 99⁴⁵m 88⁵hz 67¹⁶ 58⁷m 87¹⁵ 76¹⁵m 127¹⁶ 113¹⁶m 9.76 9.46 9.45 9.42 9.47 9.48 984 9900 10025 1045 9850 1057 1057 1015 1074 1015 1074 1015 1115 10650 11150 1150 1 UNDATED WATER 23% Connels 24% 23% Trees 24% 28% Trees 3% 57% Conv 34% 37% Convols 4% 33% War LN 34% 25"sst + 120 25"sst + - 122 30% t + 144 59% t + 144 40% + 144 36% + 154 9,79 9,90 9,92 5,86 9,83 9,62 409 322 Angliam Wester 346 407 327 Northernstriam 378 395 322 North West 327 370 296 Soven Trant 331 397 293 South West 324 392 302 South West 324 397 333 Themse Wester 354 422 341 Wester Wester 384 425 325 Wester Wester 384 431 335 Yorkshine W 367 INDEX-LINKED 124ths 115hs
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• USM; # Price at suspension; † Ex dividend; † Ex sorin; † Ex rights issue: • Ex all: § Ex capital distribution: • Figures or report awaited; ... No significant data. MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

921/2 Tree 9% 1992-96

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1109-2 Trees 14% 1996

1115-75 Trees 1545 1996

1116-4 **

Running the Olympic gauntlet of suspicion



Krabbe: four-year ban

Krabbe for producing an illegitimate urine sample for doping control has again tarnished the reputation of athletics as well as placed the world's leading perform-ers under the suspicion of

My reaction to such news always mixed. Initially, I pleased that the cheats are being caught and dealt with as seen fit by the governing body of the sport. This feeling slowly turns to bitterness as I recall the times when I have admired and respected these athletes while they have been performing under false pre-

Although I am encouraged that out-of-season drug-test-ing is becoming a strong deterrent, I feel sad for the

who do not know me personally to raise this question and I take no offence in them doing so.

In a strange way, I take it as a compliment because it implies that the quality of my performances - which i know to be genuine - could have been brought about only by these means. It has become part of the job nowadays to be under suspicion, a case of guilt by associ-

As I write, I am in California preparing for the season ahead. As the emphasis on training shifts towards quality and speed, the climate here provides an ideal environment. Over the last few years it has become home from home for myself and a handful of British athletes such as Kriss Akabusi, John



Roger Black, European 400m champion, describes his reaction to the latest

allegations of drug use

clean up its act.

travelled specifically to test

British athletes abroad. We

had no prior knowledge of

this test and were surprised

and encouraged by the steps

that the sport is taking to

were in some way tampered with on their way to the iab-oratory. Although unlikely.

Regis and Daley Thompson. The cynic, however, would suggest that my reasons for training out here are not all honourable because it enables me to put enough distance between myself and the United Kingdom, to escape drug-testing for these

few vital months.
Until last week it would have been hard for me to argue against this, but the Sports Council of Great Britain has provided me with efence. Within 12 hours of notification, Kriss and I were tested for drugs here by a representative of the Sports Council who had this is a possiblity and is a persistent worry to the innocent athlete. As testing procedures become more stringent and those in power enforce harsher penalties on offenders, then things will We are moving in the right

direction but I suspect that there is still a long way to go. For the cheating athlete the rewards are only short-term because a guilty conscience will remain long after the impetitive days are over.

The testing procedure is clinical and thorough. The This is Olympic year and in athletics, the Games will urine sample is separated into two bottles that are be no more competitive than the world championships placed into sealed containbut the consequences of sucers and then transported to cess or failure will differ the laboratory for testing. greatly. My preparation for Many suspended athletes the Olympics began in have pleaded innocence. claiming that their samples

The winter months were spent gaining both strength and stamina, longer runs with short recovery in-

ty. Training for the 400 metres is very specific. The key element is speed endurance because the event is the longest sprint. To achieve the correct balance of speed and endurance is the 400 metre runner's goal. Come summer, speed is of the essence but to make the Olympic final the athlete will have

to run four hard races on consecutive days - without a sound endurance base this will be a daunting task.
It is sometimes difficult to keep motivated to train. I am very fortunate to be working with an excellent group of training partners. This keeps motivation levels high. At 33, Kriss is contem-

plating retirement. Mind you, he has been doing so for the last four years. He con-tinues to dely logic and is running better than ever. We have trained together for

built up an almost telepathic understanding of each other's strengths and weakness-es. We have learnt to train for one another and not compete. We aim to do our racing when it really counts. This year we have been

joined by John Regis, Marcus Adam and the Swedish 400 metre hurdler. Sven Nylander. Each of us is a competitive individual who has his own interests at heart but we also recognise that it is the improvement in the quality of the group as a whole that will improve the performance of each indivi-

There is still a lot of work to be done between now and Barcelona. Each training session is just another piece of a jigsaw puzzle that will finally be completed on August 5 — the day of the Olympic 400 metre final.

England prefer period of experimentation

Laying down the law will bring conflict for board

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THERE are all the makings International Rugby Football Board (IRFB) debates changes to the laws at its annual meeting in Wellington next month. Not least is the southern hemisphere's preparedness to accept change immediately, against a proposal from the Rugby Football Union (RFU) that a period of experimentation be permitted to see if the changes work as envisaged.

The laws committee of the IRFB held a preliminary meeting in London last weekend to negotiate a way through the mass of recommendations and comments some 500 of them — on the laws. Some recommendations have already been made, by the board's interim meeting in November, including a revision to scoring values and several designed

to speed up play.

Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Argentina, meeting in Sydney last month, have already agreed that any law changes agreed next month should be impleeach country in 1992, while the Australians and New Zea-

Expansion

urged

for China

Guangzhou: Rugby's govern-ing bodies are being urged to set up development pro-

grammes in China, after the

country responded enthusias-

tically to its first taste of inter-

national rugby on Monday.

George Simpkin, the tech-

nical director of the Hong

Kong Rugby Football Union,

said he would be writing to

the International Rugby

Football Board and the Fed-

eration of International Rug-

by Associations after a

seasoned team from Hong

Kong beat Peking Agricultur-al University 32-0 in front of

several thousand spectators.

A Peking schools' rugby

union is to be set up in April. and could be followed by a

□ Western Samoa will send a

team to the Caldy Sevens,

which take place on the Wirral on May 2 and 3. Bristol, Bath and Harlequins

are also competing.

Dean Richards, the Eng-

land No. 8, has recovered

from injury and returns to

Leicester's side for Saturday's

home league match against

Rosslyn Park. (Agencies)

national union.

landers have apparently agreed to make changes in mid-season, so as to embrace the All Blacks tour in July.

This is in direct contrast to the RFU, which will oppose the imposition of new laws for the 1992-3 season. "We would prefer to have a year's grace to try some of these experiments," Don Rutherford, the RFU technical director, said. "We are not at all happy that we should accept whatever the board comes up with in April and then leave a moratorium in place until after the 1995 World Cup.

"We have written to the board to ask for power to try out the changes to see if they work and to see what repercussions they have, because some of them could change fundamentally the approach to the game, and those who

play it."

Moreover, the RFU has working parties discussing both a rewrite of the laws, so that they do not appear so complex, and the specific area of the lineout. Any recommendation relative to the lineout - for example, the Welsh Rugby Union will support the principle of lifting — would be referred to that

DURHAM, in the final of the

Commercial Union Universi-

ties Athletic Union (UAU)

championship for the first

time since their 1987 victory,

have not stinted in their prep-

arations for the match

against Loughborough Univ-

ersity at Twickenham this

Two former England inter-

nationals joined their former

mentor in coaching Durham

over the weekend before they

travelled to London on Mon-

Peter Dixon and Richard

Greenwood both played in

England back rows while,

under the guidance of Ted

Wood. Durham achieved

four UAU wins between 1981

Wood, now working in

Scarborough, returned to as-

sist Dixon, the Durham

coach, while Greenwood has

a direct interest in the univer-

sity XV since it includes Will,

The results of their efforts

will be seen against Lough-

borough, whose domination

of the tournament over the

last ten years has been inter-

his son, at stand-off half.

afternoon.

and 1987.

working party, which includes the recently retired England lock, Paul Ackford.

We are not against change, but we are against thought out to see what the consequences are," Rutherford said. One of his fears is that, in their desire to compete with rugby league, Australia and New Zealand will create a game of rugby union void of the physical distinc-tions which make it such an attractive option.

The revised scoring values will be a contentious issue, too: the southern hemisphere supports five points for a try and two for a dropped goal. However neither Wales nor England agree: "The great problem is that if you can have seven points for a converted try you pave the way for cheating." Denis Easby. the RFU's representative on the IRFB laws committee,

"It is easy to envisage a situation where, with ten minutes to go, a player on one [still worth three points] twice in the knowledge that the losing side can still not catch

rapted only by Durham and,

Durham beat Cardiff in the

play-off round this season while Loughborough pro-

ceeded with a stately stride

until harder encounters in the

quarter-finals and semi-finals

against Southampton and

DISIOI RESPECTIVELY.

PATHS TO THE FINAL: Durhams bt Hull, 29-0; bit Leads, 39-3; but to Newcaste, 15-6; bit Sheffield, 17-0; bit Cardiff, 12-10; bit Liverpool 19-7. Quarter-final: bit Newcaste, 28-13. Semi-final: bit Imperial College, London, 12-7. Loughborough: bit Simingham, 52-25; bit Leicester 81-0; bit Nottingham, 50-12; bit Vlarwick, 40-3; bit Paruel, 66-12; w/o Sheffield, scr. Quarter-final: bit Southempton, 12-3. Semi-final: bit Bristol, 21-13.

Nottingham, 30-12; bt Warwick, 40-3; bt Brunel, 66-12; w/o Sheffield, acc. Quarter-finals bt Southempton, 12-3. Semi-finals bt Bristol, 21-13.

DURHAM UNIVERSITY: R Walters (Moniston CS): J Yelcham (Wellington College). M Yesbeley (Fisberdanius) Aske's, Eletreel, N Carsting (RSS Gulddord, captain), W Parks (Wellington College); W Greenwood (Sadberghi, N Coutse (Windoor): B Fernnel (SS Edward's, Codord), J Hamilton-Smith (Redley), C Stansford (Radley), A Kane (St Edward's, Oxford), D Sibson (UCS). Hampeland), D Hornsey (Berkhamsbade), N Keller (Mel Hill), B Richardson (KCS Wimbledon).

LOUGHBERGUGH LIMWERSTY: C Dossett (Hayden, captain); M Nicholson (West Bucklerd), M Disvison (Mount St Mary's), T Senderson (Kohrheide Acadeny). M Welscher, Beltatel (SS); M Macone (Heinholt College), Belland, P Miles (King Henry VS, Coventry); D Lockyer (Cardin HS), A Read (RSS High Hycombe), N Lowton (King Hospita), Ipentich, A Diprose (Carquion). D Jones (Yatsiylers), N Hichardson (King), Worcester), E Munchison (Rugby).

Referee: E Memison (Bristo).

Quarter-final, second leg

Tottenham (0) v Feyencord (1)... (8.05)

Liverpool (0) v Genoa (2) (7.10)

Norwich v Southampton (7.45).... Sunderland v Chelses (7.45).....

Nottm Forest v Manchester Utd... (all ticket)

Uefa Cup Quarter-final, second leg

First-leg score in brackets

First-leg score in brackets

Sixth-round replays

Barclays League

Fourth division

Lincoln v York...

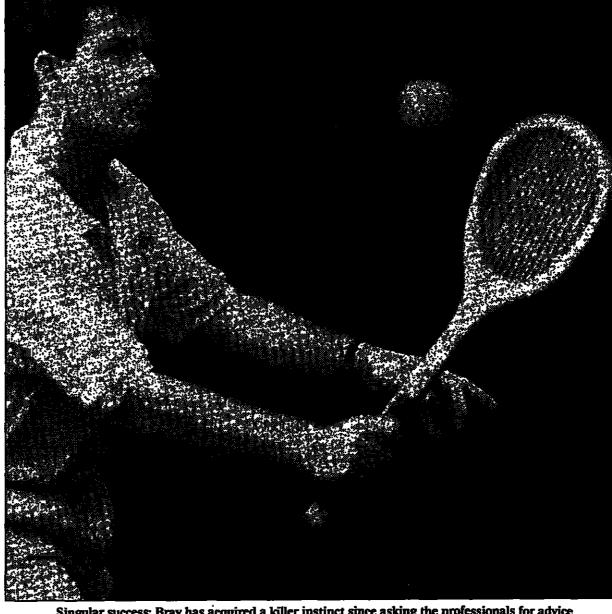
FA Cup

Bristol respectively.

Durham prepare

with great care

BY DAVID HANDS



Singular success: Bray has acquired a killer instinct since asking the professionals for advice

A nearly-man turns mean

By SALLY JONES

CHRIS Bray, one of Britain's brightest up-and-coming real tennis players, is finally start-ing to fulfil his rich promise as a singles player and add-ing some fine solo performances to the string of doubles titles he has already

Since 1989, Bray, aged 25. head professional at the Petworth House court in Sussex, has taken the Australian. French and British Open doubles championships with a variety of partners but, despite an electrifying turn of speed, quick hands and an athletic power game, many believed he was too likeable to develop a killer instinct and doomed always to lose in the quarter or semi-finals of ma-

jor singles events. A talented all-rounder who had played county lawn ten-nis and high-level squash rackets and badminton. Bray, the son of the senior accountant of Cambridge University, was apprenticed as a teenager to the convivial Brian Church, the Cambridge professional and a. classical stylist.

The game's governing body, the Tennis and Rackets

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Association, recognised his talent and, under its Young Professionals' Scheme, paid about half his salary for the next five years, including several years at Seacourt on Hayling Island. Here he practised hard with another rising pro, Peter Brake, but despite taking the British under-21 and under-24 titles. always seemed to falter in

major opens against more determined opposition. Last season, however, Bray's reputation as a gifted "nearly man" started to change. He had been hover-ing at No. 7 in the world, although he was arguably the



Ronaldson: unselfish

No. I doubles player. Then he emerged as the star of the J. D. Ward National League, the professional inter-club team tournament, and was unbeaten in the group matches, defeating, among others, the former world champion, Chris Ronaldson.

"I began to realise that I could improve," he said. "But I knew that I would have to remodel my game, particularly my backhand which often broke down under pressure, so I asked several different professionals for advice. After I lost to Chris Ronaldson in the pro singles, he came off court and said, This is what you're doing wrong', and went into incredible detail.

"His tactical awareness is astounding. He has been studying the game for 20 years and although he must have realised I was one of his closest rivals he helped me a lot - so much that I beat him in the Laurent-Perrier Masters shortly afterwards. It was amazingly unselfish of him and I can't think of any other sport where that would have

"I also started playing and practising several times a week with Robert Fahey [the young Australian already tipped, with Bray, as a poten-tial world champion) and he analysed my weaknesses

clearly and helped me iron

them out." The hard work soon started to pay off. Bray reached his first major final at the US Open, en route beating two of his closest rivals, Mike Gooding and Julian Snow, the world's leading amateur. In the first set of the final he led Lachie Deuchar, the world No. 1. 3-0 and although he eventually suc-cumbed to the Australian's brick-wall defence and retrieving, he had proved he could hold his own at the

highest level. He also won the Ballaraat Silver Racquet championship in Australia, again beating Snow. Bray is now ranked No. 4 in the world. Over the next couple of months he competes against the best in the world at the Laurent-Perrier Masters and the professional singles, attempts to underline his doubles supremacy at the inaugural Maine d'Estournel European doubles championship at Queen's and hopes to lead Petworth to their first victory in the National League final on April 10.

ICE HOCKEY

BY NORMAN DE MESQUITA.

RACING

Sober Lad soon gets **Berry off** the mark

FROM OUR IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT IN DUBLIN

JACK Berry, who has set himself the target of 100 twoyear-old winners in a season. opened the 1992 Flat campaign in much the same way as he dominated the juvenile ranks last term with Sober Lad and John Carroll landing the odds at Leopardstown

yesterday. His Sober Lad was made 15-8 on for Ireland's initial two-year-old event, the Castrol Syntron X EBF Maiden, and the Cyrano De Berggerac colt broke fast, was clear by halfway and, al-though tiring in the last halffurlong, hung on by a neck from Galaxy Star.

Sober Lad was purchased by Berry at Doncaster for 28,000 guineas from the Irish breeder John Kent. The winner "will be even better on a sharper track," commented

Berry.
"Sober Lad is smart, but still a little bit raw. He has probably gone too fast early on," added Berry, who has 85

other juveniles in his Cockerham yard. Berry explained he made the trip to the Dublin track because some of the early-

season English juvenile races have been dropped. "There are no two-year-old races at places like Leicester and Wolverhampton, but I probably won't make a habit of coming over here, though I expect to be back later in the

season for some of the bigger

☐ Fortune's Wheel, trained by Robert Collet, won the first pattern race of the French Flat season, the group three Prix Exbury, at Saint-Cloud yesterday. Peter Davies, win-ner of the 1990 Racing Post Mile when trained by Henry Cecil, disappointed on his first run for Andre Fabre,

Aintree offers trainer bonus

finishing out of the first ten.

By Jack Waterman

AINTREE'S ambition to rival Cheltenham, with its own Martell-sponsored three-day festival and more than £500,000 in added prizemoney, has received a further boost with the announcement yesterday of a new trainers'

award. The first trainer to saddle four winners at this year's Grand National meeting (starting April 2) will win a £25,000 bonus, given by Horse Racing International Super Solvitax. The award will be split £10,000 to the trainer, £10,000 to the stable staff and £5,000 to the Injured Jockeys' Fund.

☐ The date of the first Sunday fixture at Doncaster is July 26. not as previously

Competition winners

Mr C. Cross and Mr Andy Fleming are the winners of The Times Martell Grand National competition. Mr Cross, who lives at Van Road. Caerphilly, Mid-Glamorgan, and Mr Fleming, of Ashton Close, Needingworth, Cambridgeshire, each win a luxury trip for two as the guests of Martell to the big race at Aintree on April 4.

The runners-up, who each receive a bottle of Martell Cognac, are: D. Black, of Elmtree Green, Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire: Mr David Baxter, of Maudslay Road, Eltham, London SE9; J. Gompertz, of Highbury Place, London N1: Mrs

Helen Edgeley, of Runwick, Farnham, Surrey: Mr Jim Tobin, of Mornington Avenue, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Mrs T. Shelton, of Stanford Way, Broadbridge Heath, Horsham, West Sussex: Mr C. D. Hure, of Locks Ride, Ascot, Berkshire; Mr Ken Gresham, of Florida Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey, W. G. Neville, of Chatsworth Avenue, Winnersh, Wokingham, Berkshire; and Mr Douglas Halley, of Camus

Road East, Edinburgh. The answers were: 1, Docklands Express; 2, Oxo (1959); 3. Crisp, L'Escargot, Churchtown Boy; 4, Bob Davies; 5 Mrs Lois Duffey (Mr Frisk).

FOOTBALL B and Q Scottish League Premier division Cup Winners' Cup

> B International Wales v Canada (at Wrentham, 5.30)

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Bernetey v Bradford (7.0), Leads v West Bromwich (7.0), Newcastle v Rischburn (7.0), Seoded division: Hull v Notts County (7.0), Mansfeld v Scinhorpe (7.0), Port Vale v Blackpool (7.0): Presion v Grimsby (7.0); Wolverhempton v Wigan (7.0) Postponed: Burnley v Stoke

NEVILLE OVENDEN COMBINATION: BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premie division: Wealdstone v VS Rugby GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier di-

RUGBY UNION : Loughborough St v Durham Univ... (at Twickenham, 3.0)

Club matches

ICE HOCKEY

OTHER SPORT BOWLS: British Isles men's internationals (Tergobridge)
BOXING: WBO flyweight title: Isldro
Perez (Memon, holder) v Pai Canton
(Gaegow) (Ketvin Hall, Glasgow, 10.0)
SNOOKER: Embassy world champ-tonahip: Pretiminary tournement

SQUASH RACKETS: Guernsey

Britain aim for promotion prize

GREAT Britain are joined by Australia, Belgium, Hungary and North and South Korea at Humberside ice arena tomorrow in pool C of the world

to pool B next year is the prize for the winners. In Copenhagen last year, Britain were perhaps unfortunate not to gain promotion. They lost to Denmark, China and Bulgaria — all by the odd

championships. Promotion

Alex Dampier, the Britain coach, has been forced to make a late change because of a shoulder injury to Graham Waghorn, the Nottingham Panthers defenceman. His place goes to Kevin Conway, who has recently received his British passport and is the eighth Canadianbred player in the squad.

It is unfortunate that Dampier deems it necessary to include so many dual-nationals, most of whom have reached the veteran stage and could find five games in seven days a little too taxing.

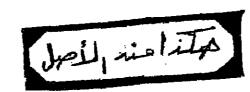
progress is impeded by the Canadians. ☐ The draw for the Heineken League championship play-offs was made yesterday, with

the top two in each group qualifying for the finals at Wembley on April 24 and 25. DRAW: Group A: Durham Waspa. Humberside Seahawie, Mumeyfeld Rec-ara, Norwich and Peterbosogh Plastes. Group B: Northigham Partitles, Cardiff Davids, Whitley Warriors, Billingham Borzhon.

There must be many talent-

ed British-born players who

find it frustrating that their



ANTE-POST supporters of Rinus for next month's

Martell Grand National will

be looking for a much im-proved display from the

Greystoke 11-year-old when

he returns after a two-month

Rinus is currently 16-1 fifth

favourite for Aintree and

owes that lofty position to his

exploits of previous seasons

rather than his moderate

efforts this term when he has

failed to complete in two chases and finished tailed off

With Gordon Richards re-

porting that his string is over

the worst of the virus, Rinus

can be expected to run well in

the King's Own Scottish Borderers and Charlotte Lady

Reay Challenge Cup but Bluff Knoll and Shoon Wind

Bluff Knoll has been

ional in mind and, after a

Meyrick Handicap Chase at

Shoon Wind was still in

with a chance of beating Cool

Ground when falling two out

GOING: STANDARD

2.40 THRUSH HA

(£2,108: 1m 6f) (9)

2.10 Creche. 2.40 Aude La Belle. 3.10 Africas

Chimes. 3.40 Magmur. 4.10 Up The Punjab. 4.40

2.10 Hinari Video. 2.40 Aude La Belle. 3.10 African Chimes. 3.40 Maamur. 4.10 Trump. 4.40 Heniu.

2,243: 31) (0 TURN 1974)
1 004- BARRYS GAMBLE 295 (B.D.F.S) T Faithurst 5-9-10
J Fantalog (3) 5
2 1124 CRECHE 4 (B.BF.CD) Mrs N Macauley 3-9-8
S.D Williams (7) 2

3 4510 HRIARI VIDEO 4 (CD,G,S) M Johnston 7-5-5 Deat McKleues 7

8 9003 CARNIFIELD 12 (V) J Glover 4-7-7 C Henricity (7) 8 11-4 Creche, 4-1 Lets Go Sebo, 9-2 Hineri Video, 6-1 Beckingham Ben, Barrya Gamble, B-1 Stedes Hill, 10-1 others,

9 634- SHIKARI KID 141 (S) P Blockley 57-7 ... A Garth (7) 8

3-1 African Chimes, 4-1 Gorinsky, 6-1 Erra Express, Wellsy Lad, 8-1 Princess Jestina, Prime Mover, 10-1 others.

Fontwell Park

Going: good (ch. good to firm in places)
2.00 (2m 2' hdge) 1, NOBLE INSIGHT (P
Scudemone. 10-11 fav); 2. Capital
Punishment (B de Hasn, 11-1); 3, French
Charmer (D Murphy, 13-8) ALSO RAN: 9
Ask The Governor (f), 40 Run For Papa
15th), 65 Anna's Okisy, Camitins (6th),
Dartamer, Fotosopress (4th), 9 ran. 2, 8,
151 Asi, 8 M Pape at Weilington Tota:
11 90, E1 20, E1 10, E1 40 DF, £6.80,
CSF £11 08

CSF £11 08
2.30 (2m 21 hole) 1. IN THE SPOTLIGHT
(D Morrs, 16-1), 2. Vado Viz (Mr J Wintle,
13-2), 3. Chimayo (M Richards, 9-2).
ALSO RAN 2 fav Legal Win (8h), 9-2
Freezing, Breakers Arbeid (f), 13-2 Pey To
Dream (5th), 12 Across The Card, 14
Smart Endewor (4th), 25 Stop Tracer, 33
Noodwood Poppy (pu), 11 ran, 15, nk, 5/,
½1, ½1, R Curtis at Epsam, Tost 231,70;
C4-80, C2-10, 51 70 DF: C391 50, CSF:
£124 62 Tricost, £321.22

E124 62 Tricast 5521.22.
3.00 (2m 21 10/yd) 1. ROSE LAN-CASTER (5 Hazel, 9-4 fav), 2, Tagmoun Chaufour (Ni rivine, 7-2). 3. Jimstro (P McDermott, 8-1). ALSO RAN-7-2 Wilbur (pu), 8 Escribána (6th), 7 Hand Out (5th), 12 Rate Of Exchange (pu), 20 Awaya Taliung (4th). Amyuliah, Broomyholme (xx), 40 Hazzard's Boy (pu), 11 ran. NR. Sevenna. 14, 55. 81, 64, 41 Theliett at Sartach, Tota 53.00; 51 70, 51 60, 57.00. DF 55.30 CSF 512.19

RESULTS FROM ESTERIOR

5-2 Aude La Bolla, 7-2 Tempering, 4-1 Stappey Lane, 6-1 Springs Welcome, 8-1 Schikl, 10-1 Shikari Kid, 12-1 others,

7 510- SULUK SJ (CD,F) R Hollashead 7-7-10

3.10 ROBIN CLAIMING STAKES

4 500- SLADES HELL 181 (F) 7 Berron 5-8-0. Alex Gra 5 -002 BECKINGHAM BEN 15 (D,F,G) J-Laigh B-7-11

DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.10 BLUE TIT HANDICAP

Wetherby.

are both preferred.

in two runs over hurdles.

absence at Kelso today.

a favourable mark

in the John Hughes National

Trial at Chepstow early last

month but may have been

flattered by the bare facts of

that performance, and in any

case, was receiving 24lb from the subsequent Gold Cup

After a six-week absence,

Shoon Wind may just need

today's race and, as he has

ben raised a stone this season for victories at Wetherby and

Newcastle, he may have to-play second fiddle to Bluff

However Rinus fares in the

feature race, Richards should

not leave the meeting empty-

handed as Sweet City has

strong claims in the Cross Keys Handicap Hurdle.

The decision to bring Sweet

City back to hurdling this season has already paid die-

Richards: runs Aintree

hope Rinus at Kelso

Knoil today.

MY MAKE

C10n Bluff Knoll looks on

W 4 Mars # No 54. AND STATE Militai an-The way tin Lin THE W. Mari Se.

17.

📽 🛊 yeyan

brought along steadily with next month's Scottish Natgentle pipe-opener at Newcastle last month, ran Bow Handy Man to a short head on his second outing of the season at Sedgefield 15

Bem That run should he brought him near to concert he looks extremely pitch and he looks extremely well treated here off an official mark of 128. 7lb lower than when taking last season's valuable Rowland

Amirre Hamer's

4.5 2. **(19**. 1) da de

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motion pf

79.54

4 3 - 10-

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 $T_1 = \tau^{-2}$



(W McParland, 9-4 tay); 2, Eddie Kybo (M Richards, 6-1); 3, Suni D'Ornay (A Maguire, 5-2), ALSO RAN-7-2 Directly, 8 Eastern Whisper, 9 Donna Del Lago (4th), 33 Shirtey Am (6th), 50 St Andrew's Bay (5th), 8 ran, NR; Bishopstone, Hata High, 4, 71, nk, 101, nd, 5 Dow at Epoem, Tota: £3.30; £1-40, £1,70, £1,50, DF; £15-40, CSF; £16.12 Tricest £33.78.
4.00 (2m 2/ 110yd ch) 1, ROXALL CLUMP (A Richards, 13-5 fac, Thunderer's nap; 2, Just Mose (6 McCourt, 7-4); 3, Bise Ensign (D O'Suffran, 50-1), ALSO RAN; 6 They All Forgot Me (4th), 7 Maitredee (6th), 8 Shitterfield (pt/), 50 Massier Cornectly (5th), 7 ran, 4t, 31, 2t, 8, 7t, K Safey at Upper Lambourn, Tote; £2.50; £1.50, £2.00. DF; £3.00. CSF; £4.88.
4.30 (2m 4f ch) 1, MIC-MAC EXPRESS

24.88.
4.30 (2m 4f cn) 1, MIC-MAC EXPRESS (Mr N Mitchet, B-2; 2, Roving Seel (Mr T McCarthy, 11-4); 3, Trust The Gypsy (Mr M Feiton, 5-2 tay). ALSO RAN: 100-30 Luvanides (eth), 12 Dock Or Grouse (5th), Rockmount Roses (pu), 20 New Market (ro), Tinto Hill, 50 Grateful Helf (6th), In The Clink (f), Wills Range (pu), Young Outliew (pu). 12 ran. NR: Proviteperformence, Vulgans Love. 25t, 15t, 15t, 30, 6t. Mrs. L Sycketmone at Safebury, Totle: £5.40; £1.70, £1.80, £1.50. DF: £1.90. CSP: £17.78. Placapot: 24.90.

Nottingham 3.30 (2m 21 hdle) 1, SUNSET AND VINE Going: good Going: good

2.15 (2m 8t hole) 1, OAIEL DREAM (P. Niver, 7-1); 2, Memenda (R. Ourwoody, 13-2); 3, Charlie 9 Darling (V. Sistiany, 9-1); 4, Emily's Star (C. Liewellyn, 15-2); ALSO RAN: 9-2 tax Daddy's Darling, 8 Marihans Secret (Sth), 9 Polierron's Pride, Kovelevekite (Sth), 12 Ima. Delight, Gistarbard, 16 Sasty Pigtalis, 20 Just A. Second, 53 Ludiow Lady, 50 Net Call, Pleasant Company, 100 Dreamside, 16 ren, NR: Rumsing Valley 2, 7, 3, 19, 51, R. Fisher et Ulverston, Tobe: £1130: £2.50, £150, £1.50, £2.70, DF: £125.00, ČSF: £51.23, Tricast: £381.10. E51.23. Tricest E391.10.

2.45 (3ts 4f hole) 1, PREMIER PRIN-CESS (R Hodge, 18-1); 2, Curravarra Mili (D Gallagher, 11-1); 3, Ard Thilatch (J O'Hanlon, 9-1); 4, Perry Well (S McNeit, 14-1). ALSO FARE 5 (1-fev Marradong Brock (f), Scottish Gold, 8 Fortunes Wood (ur), Rostreanse, 17-2 See Buck, 18 Free Juritice, 20 Surset Sam, 25 Concert Paper, Secret Finale (pd), Fingers Crossed, 33 Rongala (ur), Cossmin, Prince Klenk (6th), 50 Spend Essy, Captain

C1,000.c0. 3.15 (3m 4f cb) 1, YIRAGAN (N Hawke, 11-1); 2, Decent Man (P A Farrell, 5-1); 3, Woodgate (J Oaborne, 15-2), ALSO RAN-2-1 fav: Salemander Joe (f), 4 Smooth Esoott (ur), 50 Rausel (ou), 6 run. 15, 301. D Barons at Kingabridge, Toke 23.40; 21.80, 22.20. DF: 28.30. CSF: 214.85. 21.80, 22.20. DF: 28.30. CSF: 214.85.

3.45 (3m ch) 1, NO ESCORT (Mr M
Armytage, 8-1); 2, Queensway Boy (Mr M
Brackey, 7-1); 3, Astengiawa (A.Dere, 11-4
tay). ALSO (PANE 3, Sentesides (pu), 9-2
Cortain Rhythm (7), 8 Rain Mark (pu), 20
Couture Color (4th), 5r Pardo (pu), 33
Kate's Galf (pu), 100 Glen George (pu), 10
ran, NF: Pastorai Pride, 30, 4, 10, Miss C
Saunders at Northampton, Totar, 28.65;
22.30, 22.00, 22.00. DF: 397.00. CSF:
257.57. 257.57.
4.15 (2m holis) 1, VICTORY ANTHEM (R. Durwoody, 3-1); 2, Jump Start (N Hearin, 95-40); 3. Middlewick (Mr C Ward Thomax, 2-1 inv). ALSO RAN: 8-1 Hearthorns Glen (5th), 14 Spur Bay (4th), 16 Dawn Chence (6th), Sibestream, 50 Hearingh Bee. 8 zen. 151, 3, 151, 4, 81. N Hearderson at Lambourn. Tota: 23.00; 21.40, 21.10, 21.40. DF: 25.50. CSF: 210.58. E10.58.

4.45 (2m 6f ch) 1, CHERRYKING (H. Davica, 11-8 lav); 2, L. Forever (C. Maude, 16-1); 3, Casick Rapor (J. Frost, 10-1).

ALSD RAN; 8 Vale Cf Secrecy (4th), The Nettle Danger (f), 11 Armais (ur), 14 Bricket Wood (pu), Solicitor's Choice (8th), 25 Romany Spitt, 33 Mourne Warnter (pu), Outdest (ver), 40 Ber Tirem (5th), 50 Bey Fox (ur), 13 ran, NR: Combaraption, 121, 134, 53, 20, 334. T. Foreiter at Warntage, Tota; 22.40; £1.50, £2.10, £3.50.

DF: 217.00. CSF: £23.61. DF: 217.00. CSF: 228.03.

5.15 (2m fiet) 1, STRATH ROYAL (F. Murtagh, 25-1); 2, Syd's Brother (Mr T. Jarks, 5-1); 3, Russienity (P. McEntea, 14-1). ALSO RAN: 5 (-fave Cottage Walk, Applied Graphics, 15-2 Beck Cottage, 8 Breeches Boy, Pm Toby, 10 Bibo Beggint, 12 Spoothell Wood, Bootlide (4th), 15 Rettic, Rude Reply, 20 The Golsm, 25 Den Laur, 33 Burmese Poerl, Cawarra Boy, Laprimese, Sterm Borno, Vulcanote (pu), 50 Aurora Lad, Helf's Prince, Intital Jay, 23 ran, NR: Flinters, Mr Mustoen, 254, Ho. O Bronnan at Newerk, Tota: 280.90; 210.50, 23.90, 22.20, DF: 2375.50, CSF: 2228.73.

Bradley wins crucial appeal over fine

By Richard Evans RACING CORRESONDENT

GRAHAM Bradley won a crucial credibility test yesterday when the Jockey Club Ayr and a Scottish treble upheld his appeal against a £500 fine imposed by the Southwell stewards under the

looks on the cards here de-

spite top weight.

- At Worcester, Bean King is

a confident choice to retain

his unbeaten record over tim-

ber in the Pershore Novices'

A high class handicapper

on the Flat, Bean King could

not have won more easily on

his hundling debut at Folke-

The Ardross gelding is obviously held in high regard by

Nicky Henderson as the

Lambourn trainer declared him at the five-day stage for

the Supreme Novices' Hurdle

at Chektenham, a race in

which he ultimately saddled first, fourth and fifth.

3.40 WOODPECKER MAIDEN STAKES

8 220- MAAMUR 319 D Burchel 495. R Codrams 3
7 34-6 OKA FLOW SJ (8) P Blocking 495. R Codrams 3
7 34-6 OKA FLOW SJ (8) P Blocking 495. J Dannis (7) 10
8 5-00 TIPPERARY AZUL 8 M Tomplion 495 S Mahaw (7) 4
9 64- ELOGICAL 44-J Whanton 59-2. J Feening (8) 11
1 2- JADISH 34-J (8) Mrs J Dann 490. J Williams 3
2 0-2 LA REINE ROUGE 8 P Makin 490. T Sprato (8) 7
1 (9) 08 FED SPARKY 19 W Peace 490. D Blockin 13
1 022- STATIA 126 D Inclan 490. Kies Tinkler 1
Mescur, 47-Jacks, 11-2 Lourses

| 1222 MELYONSY 19 (CD.F.S) NTIndow 97 | ION Tindow 52 | 1222 MELYONSY 19 (CD.F.S) NTIndow 97 | ION Tindow 52 | 1361 UP THE PUNLAR 32 (D.P) 5 Dow 94 | J. Williams 4 | 3 - 134 SE.VER SAMERAL 47 (CD) R Hollimbard 93 | E Nusband (7) 2 | 4 - 400 - LIERA LEMEND 141 C Bittain 93 | Ron Hollicow 63 | 6 - 6 AVURA 21 (CD) M Johnston 84 | Dean Molitow 7 | 6 - 682 TRUMP 11 M Pleacett 87 | G Dostrid 3 7 000 - ERRY 161 S Norton 84 | K Darley 9 8 000 ERRY 161 S Norton 84 | C Hawkaisey 9 8 000 KASHGAR 35 D Chapman 7-7 | S Wood 1

8-4 Firefighter, 4-1 Key's Dilemma, 5-1 Heniu, 8-1 Persian Anthem, 10-1 Weepon Echibition, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINSRS: T Berron, 52 wieners from 208 runners, 25:0%; Lord Hurdingdon, 5 from 20, 25:0%; W O'Gomes, 24 from 17, 20,5%; J Berry, 20 from 102, 19,8%; C Cyzer, 7 from 38, 18,4%; M Prescott, 12 from 66, 18,2%.

JOCKEYS: Alex Greeves, 52 winners from 187 rides, 27.3%; W Ryen, 12 from 99, 17.4%; Esnea O'Gomen, 20 from 121, 16.5%; N Connection, 4 from 25, 18.0%; T Sprake, 5 from 32; 15.6%; D Nicholle, 15 from 97, 15.5%.

Nash seriously injured

flight in the Soar Handicap Hurdle.

11-4 Trump, 7-2 Akum, 4-1 Up The Punjeb, 8-1 Silver Sa 8-1 Mellonby, 10-1 Eigherb, 12-1 others.

4.40 BLACKBIRD MAIDEN STAKES

4.10 STARLING HANDICAP

(3-Y-O; £2,128; 1m) (9)

Basilea, an easy winner at

stone two weeks ago.

"non-triers" rule. If the Portman Square verdict had gone the other way, it could have spelled the beginning of the end for the 31year-old rider, whose career has been blighted by CONTROVERSY.

Bradley, who has twice had

Jockey Chib, attempted to put the past behind him at the start of this season when he became stable jockey to Charlie Brooks at Lambourn.

But the new start was threatened at Southwell on January 22, when the local stewards took a dim view over the way he rode Marouat, who was pulled up in the Scrooge Claiming Chase.

The gelding, described by Timeform as "not one to trust" and given a squiggle by his name, drifted from 6-4 to 3-1 in the betting, quickly lost

his licence withdrawn by the his place in the race, and was soon tailed off.

Bradley, who won the Cheltenham Gold Cup in 1983, readily accepted the situation, but the stewards concluded the jockey had not allowed Marouat to run on its merits.

The decision infuriated Bradley, and Brooks, trainer of the horse, who described it as a slur on himself, his jockey, and the horse's owner, Lady Joseph.

Brooks was a key witness at yesterday's two-hour hearing. where the Jockey Club's disciplinary committee saw films

of Marouat's previous races where he also displayed a reluctance to race with zest.

Bradley, his lawyer, Peter McCormick, and Brooks, emerged from Portman Square elated at the result of the disciplinary hearing. "I am very pleased. Common sense has prevailed," the lockey said.

Brooks added: "I am delighted that the confidence my owners have put in Brad has been vindicated."

The happy outcome for those involved should not be allowed to mask the highly

3.50 KING JOHN HANDICAP CHASE (£2,454; 3m) (6 runners).

unsatisfactory way in which disciplinary hearings continue to be conducted.

It is ridiculous in the Nineties that such quasi-judicial events, which can affect the future careers and livelihoods of trainers and jockeys. should be held behind closed doors.

Other professional bodies. including the Law Society and the British Medical Association, allow such hearings to be fully reported and Lord Hartington, the Jockey Club's senior steward, should follow their example.

MANDARIN 2.20 Ring Of Fortune. 2.50 Island Jetsetter. 3.20 Miramac. 3.50 Besilea. 4.20 Major Kinsman. 4.50 Mad Casanova. 5.20 Bean King.	THUNDERER 2.20 Palindromic Pip. 2.50 Island Jetaetter. 3.20 Beaumood. 3.50 Hurry Up Henry. 4.20 Senor Thomas. 4.50 Mad Cassnova. 5.20 Bean King.	RICHARD EVANS 2.50 ISLAND JETSETTER (nsp). 4.50 Bean King.
	٠	

Basilea, an easy winner at Lingfield in January, can regain the winning thread in the King John Handicap	4.20 Major Kinsman. 4.50 Mad Casanova. 4.50 Mad Casanova. 5.20 Bean King. 5.20 Bean King.	: ·
Chase Tim Forster's nine-	GOING: GOOD	SIS
cools chance when unscating	2.20 PITCHCROFT NOVICES HURDLE (£1,235: 2m 4f) (17 runners)	
an amateurs' race here last month and has a solid chance to make amends in the hands of Carl Llewellyn. Adrian Maguire's memo- nable season can continue with a double via Island	1 9-11405 CPRLO OF THE MRST 32 (D.Q.3) (C Health) O Sharwood 9-1240	99
Listetter (2.50) and Major Kinsman (4.20). while	12 O TALE U WIN 13 Odra A Effet Mrs S Mirror 6-11-2 D Svine	
Darren Biggs can follow suit at Southwell with Aude La Belle (2.40) and Kay's Di-	13 P UFANO 117 (N Hairle) T Foreter 6-11-2 C Lievellyn 14 00 KNN3'S NELL 44 (N Teeroulles) J Oki 6-10-11 T Granther 15 0 NATIVE MAGIC 32 (R Aroull) R Armstoarp 6-10-11 R Queet 16 0PP4-P0 PENARTH 15 IP Developer Mrs N Sharpe 6-10-11 M Bosley	
lemma (4.40). Blinkered first time	17 0480 CONMANCHE SIOUX 74 (V) (Mrs L Cooper) K Morgen 4-10-2	72
SOUTHWELL: 240 Straiter Burn 3 10	1991; MEETING ABANDONED — WATERLOGGED COURSE	

FORM FOCUS CHILD OF THE MIST lest showed form when 19: 4th of 6 to Lift And Load in grade I Challow Hurdle at Newbury (2m # 120)rd, good) in December. RING OF FORTUNE 41 2nd of 8 to Petalski in Chepatow (2m, soft) hurdle; previously best Daye Of Thunder 201 in 10-numer Pluspion (2m, good) novice hurdle. AGARS best Ugolin De La Wess 11 in 8-numer Dunclaik (2m 4f, good) bumper. COMEDY SPY 3½/2nd of 10 to Chair's Train in Wohenhampton (2m, good) novice hurdle on penultimate start. GIRTHING GRAY 34f 10th of 21 to Chuck Curley in Kempton (2m, good to tim) bumper. NATIVE MAGIC 27/7m of 16 to Sentrary in Notinghem (2m, good) novice hurdle. Selection: RIMG OF PORTUNE (map)

2.50 STOURPORT HANDICAP CHASE (92,469: 2m) (7 runners) Long handicap: Artic Chief 9-6. BETTING: 5-2 Island Jetsetter, 9-1 Cavaller Crossett, 9-2 Mingmora, 8-1 TBdabo, 8-1 Skylark Wonder, 10-1 Arcic Chief, 14-1 Lot Moss.

FORM FOCUS			
RIDEBO best Acre HE 2 in 4-runner Plumpton 2m, good) handicap chase in November, ISLAND MCTSETTER 41 2md of 8 to Jimy Jack in Streetford 2m, good) handicap chase; serier best Ecthorg 1½d in 5-runner Wetherby (2m, good) handicap chase in November CAVALIER CROSSETT best Interim LIb 1½d in 6- runner Apr (2m, heavy) handicap chase.	RBNGMORE 5½ 3rd of 4 to Treatdor in Marie Rasen (2m 11, good to firm) conditions locks handless chase; earlier beat TR.DEBO (7b bett off) 71 in 11-unner handless chase over course as detamore (soft). 8½/LARK WONDER 13 5th of to Whatever You Like in Lingfield (2m, good) hand cap chees on paralificate start. Selection: ISLAND JETSETTER		
3.20 PORTLAND WALKCLASSING!	#URDLE (£1,720: 2m) (18 runners)		

82 88 95 1 Shoemark
D Storms
G Moore
D J Burchell
Mr G Lawis (7) 87 BETTINE: 3-1 Minamec, 4-1 Policick, 6-1 Beaumood, Fighting Days, 8-1 Nordic Delight, King's Shiting, 10-1, Policick, 12-1 others.

FORM FOCUS POLLOCK best Mottram's Gold 2141 in 8-runner
Taurism (2m 3f, good to firm) handicap hundle; previousity 101 2nd of 21 to Via Lute in Vincentron (2m, good) claiming hundle with MERAMAC (7b better
off) 8 3rd.

BEAUMOOD 15/M 3rd of 10 to Brocture Grey in
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RICHARD EVANS MANDARIN THUNDERER 2.00 Candy Tuff.
2.30 Peanuts Pet.
3.00 Lothian Pilot.
3.30 BLUFF KNOLL. THE amateur rider Pip Nash is on a life-support machine at the Queen's Medical Centre in Nottingham after a fall at the local 3.30 Shoon Wind. 3.00 Lothian Pilot. 3.30 SHOON WIND course yesterday. Mrs Nash, married to the trainer Chris Nash, was injured when Stone Madness fell when leading at the eleventh (nap). 4.00 Royal Illusion. 4.30 Steele Justice. 5.00 Konvekta Control. (nap). 4.00 Sweet City. 4.30 Steele Justice. 5.00 Konvekta Control. The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.30 PEANUTS PET. Brian Beel: 4.30 Steele Justice. GOING: GOOD TO FIRM Ahab, Mendeley Prince (5th), 100 Stone Medoess (f). 21 ran. NR: Yokon Cuest. 31, 34, sh hd., 12, 4. 18. Hem st. Aubridge. Tota: 224.10: 54.80, 23.80, 52.80, 55.50. DF: 2188.80. CSP: £181.34. Tricast: £1,586.25. 2.00 LOTHIAN PLUMBING SUPPLIES NOVICES HURDLE 1 485411 CANDY TUFF 53 (D.A.S) (G Stavenson) Mrs G Reveloy 6-12-0 P Niven © 99
2 06-1234 WESTWELL BOY 70 (G) (D Yeedon) P Beaumont 6-11-8 P A Farmal 88
3 0/659 BROTHER ANDREW 90 (B McM8an) W A Stephenson 6-11-2 J Supple (7)
65
4 UP/4FF WREIGN MELODY 60 (G) (Exors of G Chick) F Watson 11-11-2 Mr S Lyons (7)
5 02214 HELIOPSIS 21 (G) (M Godsman & D Godsman) M Hammond 4-10-13 D Bentbey (7)
65

BETTING: 2-6 Candy Tuff, 5-1 Holiopais, 8-1 Westwell Boy, 12-1 Brother Andrew, 20-1 Wreldn Mei 1991: ANOTHER DYER 7-11-2 N Doughty (11-4) G Richards 9 ran

2.30 POTTERTON MYSON NOVICES CHASE (52,638: 2m 196yd) (8 runners)

79 SETTING: 15-8 Peenuts Pet, 4-1 Centenery Star, 11-2 Arpal Forever, 6-1 Dickle's Gin, 6-1 Lan 10-1 Spine Cross, 14-1 Phila Price, 25-1 Gander Kennett. 1991: LOTHIAN CAPTAIN 6-11-8 N Doughty (11-8) G Richards 9 ran 3.00 ebf shires bathroom national hunt novices hurdle Ψ (Qualifier: £2,108: 2m 2f) (19 runners) 2 25-275 BIG MAG 111 (Lee Construction (newcaster) Liny 5

GORDON PASHA (6 Medicen) G Richards 6-11-0 Middlensy —

80-P0 HIGHLANDBAN 32 (him H Presum) J Heldene 6-11-0 A Medicen

5 00 INDIAN RADGER 46 (W Stephenson) W A Stephenson 5-11-0 C Grant 6

6 0-00 ISLAND GALE 6 (D McCune) D McCune 7-11-0 P Weeget (7) 1

7 4-40PP0 KIRSTY'S COMET 25 (him K McCiellend) Mids L Perrett 6-11-0 D Poole (7) 1

8 0P USADING PROSPECT 70 (J Goodslelow) Mirs J Goodslelow 5-11-0 R Hodge (5) —

9 0083PP OLD MORTALITY 33 (R Themson) R Allen 6-11-0 B Storey (1) 1

10 00 RYLAND LOGGE 26 (D belgisleth) J O'Nedl 5-11-0 B Bradley (1) 1

12 8000 SHARP CHALLENGE 329 (J Wade) J Wede 5-11-0 B Bradley (1) 1

13 2014 SIMPLE PLEASURE 81 (F.G.S) (him M Stirt) Mirs M Stirt 7-11-0 K Jones —

14 60-9004 SHART PAL 15 (B) (him J Plummer) P Beaumont 7-11-0 P A Parrell 15 4-00055 TEMANFAYA 14 (hirs D Cultern) Mirs D Cultern 5-11-0 D Berdley (7) 0-0P BRIGHT POLLY 22 (hirs A Sharey J Haldene 6-10-9 N Lench (7)
18 OUPD MALVERN MADAM 11 (Beimer Stud) J Eyre 5-10-0 A Macholand BETTING: 5-2 Lothian Pilot, S-1 Simple Pleasure, 11-2 Smart Pal, 13-2 Big Mao, 8-1 Timentays, 12-1 Gord P Waggott (7) == D Poole (7) 83 == B Storey 86 95 BETTING: 5-2 Lothian Pilot, 3-1 Simple Pleasure, 11-2 Smart Pal, 13-2 Big Meo, 8-1 Timentaye, 12-1 Gordon Pasha, 16-1 Indian Raider, 20-1 others.

1991: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

Long handicep: Over And Above 9-9.

BETTING: 11-4 Over And Above, 3-1 Hurry Up Henry, 4-1 Arctic Teal, 6-1 Basties, 8-1 Phercen's Leen, 10-1 Pulled Meter. **FORM FOCUS** PHARQAH'S LAEN saddle slipped when pulled up behind Top Of Gold in 19-runner ametieur riders handlesp chase at Chettenham (2m, good); earlier beat Steeple View 21th in 5-runner Warwick (2m 11, good to soft) chase in Januery 1980. FURRY UP HENRY 294 4th of 19 to See leisend in Worcester (3m, good to soft) ametieur riders handlbeat Ther-An-Bharr 20 in 4-runner Lingsleid (2m 4f, good) handless chase on penutitimate start. PUKKA MAJOR 31 5th of 10 to Hollermann in Foliessione (2m, good) handless chase. ARCTIC TEAL beat Playpon 36 (pair class) in 8-runner Taunton (3m, good) handless chase on penutitiseate start. OVER AND ABOVE 6 2nd ot 8 to Rare Luck at Plumpton 4.20 EBF ST BARNABAS NOVICES CHASE (Div I: £1,860; 2m 4f) (10 runners) BETTING: Evens Mejor Kinsman, 11-8 Senor Thomas, 10-1 Friends Again, 16-1 Strike It Right, 20-1 Leave It Out, 25-1 others. **FORM FOCUS** MAJOR KINSMAN 2 2nd of 9 to Emant Knight in Bengor (2m 44, soft) novice chase with SENOR THOMAS 20 3nd; certair best Quintana 31st at Ben-gor (2m 44, soft) in November. 4.50 EBF ST BARNABAS NOVICES CHASE (Div II: £1,843; 2m 4f) (9 runners) BETTING: 2-1 Mad Casanova, 3-1 Anyone's Fancy, 4-1 Hursthill, 6-1 Construction King, 8-1 The Lighter Skie, 10-1 Cruise Control, 12-1 others. FORM FOCUS MAD CASANOVA 81 3rd of 13 to Fiddlers Three in Folkestone (3re 2f, good) novice chase. CONSTRUCTION (DNG 29) 3rd of 8 to Logardano in Market Resen (2m 1f, good) novice chase in January.

GRUISE CONTROL 121 2nd of 7 to Bounden Duty in Warwick (2m, good to soft) novice chase on penultiments start. Hubs 1 to Parson's Selection: MAD CASANOVA 5.20 PERSHORE NOVICES HURDLE (£1,235: 2m) (13 runners) 1 BEAN KING 14 (D.G) (J Stons) N Henderson 6-11-8.

FIG. ANGELS KISS 518 (L Joneson) M Pipe 7-11-2.

8P/D/ BEWITCHING WIND 880 (A Cook) J Thomas 7-11-2.

0-8608 JUST GREAT 18 (B) (G Marrish R Juctus 6-11-2.

0-KATIE'S JOKER 351 (J Russell) O O'Nell 6-11-2.

000 MINT FRESH 16 (Biss N Carroll) C Jemes 5-11-2.

24 SAN FERNANDO 40 (Mrs S Embiricae) J Gifford 6-11-2.

SUNGROVE'S BEST 541F (A Holland) E Wheeler 5-11-2.

0-P HEILEN LULLABYE 13 (B) (Lady Scott) C Smith 6-10-11.

34290 BETTICOAT DWINER 46F (Bronner Kesmen) Mrs R Windon 6 34/P20 PETTICOAT POWER 46F (Brogan/Keen 048 MAN AMONG MEN 12 (J Smith) J Boscley 4-10-6 40 WAKASHAN 25 (J Short) K Morgan 4-10-8....... 0 PAINT THE LILY 41 (D Jermy) D Jermy 4-10-3... D Skyrme BETTING: 8-11 Been King, 7-2 San Fernando, 6-1 Angels Kiss, 8-1 Petricoat Power, 12-1 Wakashan, 14-1 others. FORM FOCUS BEAN KING best Kilcash 8 in 5-runner Foliastone (2m 110yd, good) novice hurdle. SAN FERNANDO 171 4th to 14 to Astricki Copse in Newbury (2m 4t, good) novice hurdle. PETICOAT POWER 34 2nd of 14 to Mulbank in **COURSE SPECIALISTS**

3.30 KING'S OWN SCOTTISH BORDERERS AND CHARLOTTE LADY REAY CHALLENGE CUP (Handicap chase: £4,833: 3m) (8 runners) 1 2F-PU00 RINUS 60 (P.F.G.S) (A Proos) G Rioherds 11-12-0
2 111U-P2 BLUFF KNOLL 15 (CD.F.G.S) (R Brewis) R Brewis 8-11-4
3 13-121F SHOON WRINU 46 (D.F.G.S) (R Brewis) R Brewis 8-11-4
3-1604B BISHOPDALE 18 (D.F.G.S) (Ars M Scholey) M Hammond 9-11-1
5 F-4P010 LACIDAR 8 (D.F.G.S) (Mrs I Knowles) J Johnson 12-10-13
6 111-234 J-HENRY 25 (C.D.F.G.S) (Mrs I Knowles) P Beaumont 13-10-13
7 225U05 KRRSTYS BOY 33 (D.F.G.S) (Mrs I Knowles) P Brewis 8-10-10
8 14-F422 VECING ROCKET 11 (BF.D.G.S) (R Green) C Perker 8-10-1 BETTING: 94 Shoon Wind, 11-4 Bigiff Keoli, 6-1 Viking Rocket, 8-1 Lecider, J-J-Henry, 12-1 Kinsty's Boy, 14-1 Rinus, 16-1 Signophale. 1991: SNOWFIRE CHAP 8-10-11 P Niven (5-2 tav) Mrs G Reveloy 5 ran 4.00 CROSS KEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,759: 2m 2f) (7 runners) 1 144341 SWEET CITY 11 (S) (W Peacock) G Richards 7-12-0 N Leach (7) 95
2 201400 SIR PETER LELY 19 (CD.F.S) (John Doyle Construction) M Hammond 5-11-8 P Niver 3 5-6150P ALL WELCOME 32 (G.S) (Lionville Builders Ltd) G Moore 5-11-4 N Doughty 95
4 U00523 ROYAL BLUSION 11 (G.S) (J Lishman) G Moore 5-10-12 M Doyler 5 201790 SEXY MOVER 61 (G.S) (A Crook) W Storey 5-10-5 K Doolan 99
6 0312/P-3 FERNANDQ REYES 25 (F) (P Spottiewood) P Spottlewood 7-10-0 B Storey 7 2-PP500 KNAVE OF CLUBS 4 (C.G) (H Haughey) P Blockley 5-10-0 C Great Long hundicap: Fernando Reyes 9-8, Kneve Of Clubs 9-5.
BETTING: 2-1 Sweet City, 3-1 Royal Busion, 9-2 Sir Peter Lely, 5-1 Fernando Reyes, 8-1 Sexy Mover, 12-1 All Welcome, 25-1 Kneve Of Clubs. 1991: TIMURS DOUBLE 10-11-10 Mr C Sample (8-13 fav) Maj W Sample 4 nan 4.30 JOHN RUTHERFORD, CLAAS UK HUNTER CHASE (Amateurs: £2,143: 3m) (8 runners) BETTING: 5-4 Steels Justice, 5-2 Lord Purss, 5-1 Andrew, 8-1 Once Stung, 12-1 Heroic Way, 14-1 Tertevie, 16-1 others. 1991: CHURCH WARDEN 12-11-0 Mr R Hele (5-2) G Richards 6 ran 5.00 MARCH BUMPER NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,758: 2m) (15 runners)

TRAINERS

BETTING: Evens Konvekta Control, 11-2 Mr Knitwit, 7-1 Hondeghem, 10-1 Lord Tim, Don't Tell Judy, 12-1 Strong Sound, 16-1 others. 1991: SCOTTISH MOUNTAIN 5-11-3 L Mulaney (20-1) M Estierby 17 ran

COURSE SPECIALISTS TRAINERS Runners Per cent JOCKEYS 28.5 N Doughty
24.7 P Niven
22.0 K Johnson
20.0 L O'Hara
19.4 R Hodge
17.6 M Dwyer Rides Percent G Richards
Mrs G Reveley
M Hammond
T Tate
G Moore
P Seaumont 30.8 22.0 21.2 20.0 18.5 17.0

CRICKET

Thorpe and **Johnson** provide sole resistance

FROM RICHARD STREETON IN PORT OF SPAIN

BRAVE batting by Graham Thorpe and Paul Johnson on a treacherous pitch provided the main resistance here yesterday, as England went to the verge of defeat against West Indies in the first A team Test match. England were left an academic target of 279 to win after West Indies declared overnight. and by tea they had struggled

On a pitch from which the ball reared one moment and crept along the ground the next, England were given no chance on a surface which tested courage as much as technique. Three early wick-ets fell before Thorpe and Johnson added 77 in 19

Otherwise the four West Indian fast bowlers were in control. Joseph and Benjamin, the two newcomers, looked more awkward to play than Walsh or Gray, but all four bowled better than England had done. They were helped by their greater speed, but overall they kept a better line as they took full advan-tage of the helpful conditions. England were 29 for three

in the thirteenth over. Bicknell had his off-stump flattened by a no-ball as he played back. Ramprakash was leg-before when a yorker landed on his foot, and Morris stood no chance as a ball shot through at ankle-height. Thorpe and Johnson both needed treatment more than once, after being hit mostly on the hands, as they struggled on for 90 minutes either side of lunch.

Almost as soon as Johnson arrived, he had to contend with a ball from Benjamin which soared over both his head and the wicketkeeper's for four byes. The next ball scuttled along the ground.

are not included. The top four teams quely for the semi-finels the second-placed plays the third-placed in Auckland on March 20, and the first-placed plays the fourth-placed in Sydney on March 22 However, if Austra-ia qualify for the sem-finels, they will play in Sydney New Zoaland will play in Auckland unless they meet Australia A second day has been set aside for each sem final. If the match cannot be comploted on the scheduled day, it will be restarted the next day. If there is no

hnai The linal is in Melbourne on March 25

Johnson and Thorpe both did well as they managed to keep several threatening balls down while they were fending them off. They drove when it was possible to do so, and they also benefitted from the absence of a deep third

Their stand ended when both were leg-before in successive overs. Thorpe went first, as he tried to work a ball to the onside and then John-son was undone by a ball that kept low as he stretched forward. England had lost three wickets in eight balls when Stephenson played loosely outside the off-stump and was caught behind. Cork was bowled soon afterwards before Rhodes and Salisbury stayed together until tea.

WEST INDIES A: First Innings 249 (R. Holder 54, A H Gray 50) Second innings 241 for 9 dec (C A B J P Stephenson 4 for 57). ENGLAND A: First innings Bickneff 54)

Second Innings

FALL OF WICKETS, 1-14 2-29 3-29, 4-108, 5-106, 6-106, 7-110

☐ Dilip Vengsarkar, the former Indian captain, an-nounced his retirement from first-class cricket yesterday after his team, Bombay, lost their Ranji Trophy semi-final to Delhi in Bombay. Vengsarkar, aged 35, who made his international debut in 1975, made 6,868 runs in his 116 Tests, including 17 centuries, three of which were

at Lord's. ☐ Gloucestershire are giving a one-year contract to Justin Vaughan, aged 24, an allrounder from Auckland.

TABLE, FIXTURES AND RESULTS



Seat of power: but Highbury stadium, home of George Graham's League champions, Arsenal, lags behind the best in Europe

Football lacks grounds for hope

schemes, it is hard to see

where the money for radical

"Crystal Palace are expect-

developments will come from.

ed to develop the stadium and

the team," Noades said. "You

can't do it. In Europe: clubs

don't do it. They concentrate

more pressing at the other end of the scale as the

smaller clubs try to come to

terms with the implications of

the Taylor Report. There are

widespread worries that the

financial demands are be-

yond the compass of many

"In principle we would very much like to provide an all-

seat facility," John Dennis.

the Barnsley chairman, said.

"but the practicality of pro-

almost impossible. The reali-

ty is that we have to find large

sums. It would be nice to have

completed the programme by

the requisite date, but unfor-

f the problems at the top

end are sizeable, they are

on the team."

small clubs.

The announcement of the general election means that any moves by football to revise the Taylor Report are in abeyance. But whoever forms the government after April 9 will be faced with problems, among them the football grounds of England.
Grounds at both ends of

the spectrum are in deep trouble. At the top end, a failure of finance and imagination means that England may never again be able to stage the World Cup, while throughout the rest of the League the Taylor Report threatens the existence of a number of clubs.

With the Premier League the present focus of attention, perhaps the most worrving Javed Mandad 89). Zimbabwe 201-7 India 1-0 v Sri Lanka — no result West Indias 264-8 (B C Lars 72, C L Hooper 53, R B Richardson 56), Zimbabwe 189-7 (A Shah 60 not out. D L Houghton 56). South Africa 190-7 (P N Kirsten 90), New Zealand 191-3 (M J Greetbatch 58, R T Latham 60). Australia 237-9 (D M Jones 90), India 234 (M Azharuddin 93), India starget revised 10236 an 47 overs. Pakistan 74. England 24-1 — no result. South Africa 195, Sir Lanka 195-7 (R S Mathanama 89, A Ranslunga 64 not out). New Zealand 162-3 (M D Crove 74 not out, A H Jones 57), Zimbabwe 105-7, India 216 (S R Tenduliar 54 not out). Pakistan 173 (Aamer Solvati 62) South Africa 20-8 (P N Kirsten 59), West Indias 136 (A L Loge 61; M W Pringle 4-11) aspect is the poverty of plan-ning by leading clubs. In order to stage the World Cup, a country has to have two grounds with a capacity of 60,000. Unless Manchester gets its Olympic stadium, or Twickenham is used alongside Wembley (an unhappy prospect for anyone who has watched football at Lansdowne Road, Dublin), England cannot fulfit that requirement. Whereas Italy rebuilt the San Siro for the 1990 World Cup, the Premier League will be played in

Pelistan 173 (Aamer Sohal 52) South Africa 2008 (PN Krsten 55), West Indias 136 (A L Loge 8); M W Pringle 4-11) Australia 171 (T M Moody 51, 17 Botham 4-31), England 173-2 (G A Gooch 58, 1 T Botham 53) India 203-7 (S R Tendulker 81), Zimbabwe 104-1. Srl Lanka 189-9 (P A de Silva 62), Australia 190-3 (G R Marsh 60, T M Moody 57) West Indias 203-7 (B C Lara 52), New Zaaland 208-5 (M D Crowe 81 not out, M J Greetbetch 63, England 208-5 (M D Crowe 81 not out, M J Greetbetch 63, Pakistan 173-8 England 208-6 (N H Fasbrother 63, A J Stewart 59), Sri Lanka 174 (C C Lewis 4-30), India 197 (M Azharuddin 61, A C Cummin 4-33), West Indies 195-5 (K L T Arthurlon 58 not out) — Wear Indies 197-6 (M C Wessels 70, P N Kirsten 62 not out) Pakistan 173-10 (M C Wessels 70, P N Kirsten 62 not out) Pakistan 175 (M Z C Wessels 70, P N Kirsten 62 not out) Pakistan 176 (M Z C Wessels 70, P N Kirsten 62 not out) Pakistan 179 (M Z C Wessels 85, A Hudson 79), England 206-6 (R T endulker 177, N M Farbrother 75 not out) — England: larget revised to 225 n 41 overs West Indies 208-8 (P V Simmons 110 U C Haffunusnophe 4-57), Sn Lanka 177-9 Australia 205-6 (M E Waugh 66 not out), S R Waugh 55, O M Jones 54), Zimbabwe 137 England 200-8 (G A Hisch 56, New Zealand 201-3 (A H Jones 78, M D Crower 73 not out) India 180-6 (M Azharuddin 79), South Africa 181-4 (P N Kritten 84 A C Hudson 53) Sn Lanka 212-6. Pakistan 216-6 (Javed Manded 57, Saam Makis 51) pocket-size stadiums. "People talk about a European league, but there's no ground apart from Old Trafford in this country which is Ron Noades, chairman and chief executive of Crystal Pal-

ace, said. "The present basis is refurbishing sub-standard stadiums up and down the country. But they should designate eight regional sites for constructing new purpose-built modern stadiums, not trying to rebuild 92 grounds. It should be government-led, and they should be agreeing on sites for regional stadiums

Clubs at both ends of the scale in

England are finding it difficult to fulfil the demand for modern, safe

stadiums, Peter Ball reports with sufficient capacity. Ingovernment initiates the

Noades singled out Old Trafford as the one exception. but there are grave doubts among Manchester United supporters. When the redevelopment of the Stretford End takes place, at a cost of between £10 million and £12 million, capacity will be re-duced to 43,000, below the club's average attendance

stead, we are going at it

It would cost another £15 million to increase it to 50,000, and for the moment United have no plans to take that step, although if they are to compete on equal terms with the likes of Milan and Barcelona should the European league materialise, a capacity nearer 60.000 would seem essential

Even at 43,000. United will have the biggest club ground in the country, with Aston Villa and Leeds United planning for just over 40,006, and Arsenal falling just below. It is a sad lack of confi-

dence, or of vision, meaning that for all the good inten-tions. English facilities will iag further behind the state of the art. Instead of building grounds for a Premier League and European future in the 21st century, clubs are doing enough to get by in the last decade of the 20th century. "It is like setting out today to build the M25 with three lanes." Rick Parry, chief executive of the Premier League,

said. But unless the Premier League does realise the riches promised in the FA blueprint or, as Noades suggests, the tunately in our case, and that of 90 per cent of the second division, it is just not practicable."
The third and fourth divi-

sion clubs have until 1999 to meet the all-seat requirements, putting them in a rather better position than second division clubs at the moment. The chancellor's decision to extend the betting tax relief for five more years will give them further help. "It will enable us to in-

crease significantly the level of grant aid, particularly for smaller clubs which will need most help," Richard Faulk-ner, of the Football Trust, said, "and we will be discussing new ceiling levels of grant in the near future. This decision does of course depend on the continued health of the football pools business, and it is obviously vital for football that if a national lottery is introduced, pools turnover is unaffected.

The chancellor's decision could see the present £500,000 grant raised to £1 million, but many believe that further steps are required. "The level of support itself has to change," Ian Stott, of Oldham Athletic, the chairman of the Football League Taylor implementation committee. said. "It is no good giving smaller clubs 75 per cent grants, because they can't find the remaining 25 per cent. If they don't want to give 100 per cent of the cost, then

it has to be 90 per cent or 95 per cent. There is also a groundswell of opinion in favour of looking again at the all-seat re-quirement itself, certainly for the lower-division clubs. Noades has suggested that an element of standing should be retained even for the first division, and it will be discussed at the Premier League

meeting on Friday. There is little doubt that. with the essential safety qualifications, it would be popular. The Football Supporters' Association support the idea, as do many clubs.

n the FA Cup third-

round replay at Derby, Burnley supporters in the bottom tier behind one goal spent the last half-hour standing, with banners reading "Save Our Terraces" and "Make A Stand Against Seats" draped over the railings. "Who doesn't want standing?" Noades said. "I've been flooded out with support, and apart from Mr de Quidt [the Football Licensing Authority spokesman] there has been no criticism. And the FLA shouldn't have an opinion - its job is to implement, the government's decisions."

But with football lacking an effective lobby, the government has shown no signs of weakening so far, and most eople in the game concede that Noades's cause is hopeless. There is more hope for the third and fourth division clubs, with suggestions that the all-seat requirement might be lifted, particularly if there is a change of

.government. 'I think to let people off the hook completely and just waive the requirement for the lower divisions would be wrong," Stott said. "There is a move towards having more seats anyway, and a lot of clubs want to improve their grounds.

"But there should be a reappraisal of how far you have to go in the lower divisions. If the seating requirement was tied to the average attendance that would seem to be about

right.
It is a nonsense to have people going for grants to put in sears which won't be used. But if you don't do that, then you must be allowed to use standing areas when there is

a demand."

better off before the newcom-er hit town. Welcome to Key Biscayne, Mr McEnroe. John McEnroe had promised to include some new stops on his itinerary in possibly his last full season on the tour and, in two hours 38 minutes, the Floridians were

treated - if that is the right

word — to the full routine he has been trailing round the

TENNIS

McEnroe

stoops

to all the

old lows

By Andrew Longmore Tennis Correspondent

FLORIDA has finally found out what it had been missing all these years and the 12,000 on the main court, who were

variously labelled dorks, morons and worse through a

torrid night, must have won-

dered if they were actually

world for the past 12 years. It was as if he was determined to make up for lost time on his first visit to the Lipton International. The abuse, the deliberate disruptions, the brilliance. The act, so refreshingly clean and remorseful in a memorable Australian Open, has sadly returned to normal and if the final outcome, victory over Goran Ivanisevic, the No. 5 seed, by 4-6, 7-5, 7-5 was admirable, the manner of it

was rather less so. Sadly, the craven umpiring of Paulo Pereira was equally true to form. While McEnroe was allowed to goad officials and crowd at will, Ivanisevic, who had kept his notoriously hot temper cool under severe provocation, was given a code violation for his first throw of the racket. Not surprisingly, the crew-cut Croatian was in-censed by the injustice of it all and as the crowd began to put their full weight behind McEnroe, his self-control

4, he lost the next three games, McEnroe setting up the break back and then completing his first win over was given a violation for throwing the racket once."

have to stoop to those levels. ing like a man with other things on his mind. His wedding in April, perhaps.

Results, page 29

The tinal is in Metbourne on March 25 PREVIOUS RESULTS: New Zealand 2496 (M D Crower 100 not out. K R Rutherlord 57), Austrate 211 (D C Boon 100) England 2369 (R A Smith 91) G A Gooch 51) India 227 (R J Shastin 57) Patiostan 2302 (Ramiz Rapa 102, Javed Mandad 57 not out. West Indies 221-0) D L Haynes 93 not out B C Lara 89 related hurt! Zimbathing 3134 (A Flower 115 not out. A C Warter 83 not out K J Arnolt 52) Sri Lanks 314 7 (A Ranstunga 88 not out. M A R Samarasekera 75, R S Mananama 50). New Zestand 2104 (K R Rutherlord 65 not out. J G Weight 57) Australia 170 9, South Almac 171-1 (K C Wessels 81 not out). West Indies 157 (K L T Arthurton 54). England 1804 (G A Gooch 65, G A Hick 54) Pakirstan 2544 (Aamer Schail 114 **NETBALL**

Broomhead confident

ENGLAND play Wales at senior and under-18 level in Cardiff on Saturday, with history on their side (Louise Taylor writes). They have played Wales 47 times at senior standard, winning 45, losing one and drawing one.

Liz Broomhead, the new England senior coach, who succeeded Betty Galsworthy last November, will be hoping to get off to a confident start in her new role.

Sheelagh Redpath has been invited to officiate in the Johnson and Johnson international series between Australia, the world champions, and New Zealand in Australia this June.

Selection for Redpath, an

administrator with the All England Netball Association, is a tribute to her impressive umpiring since joining the international list only two years ago.

In the national clubs' competition. Toucans, of Middlesex, knocked out Harborne, of Birmingham, the holders, 44-39 in the quarter-finals.

Harborne were without Joan Bryan, their former England international shooter, while Toucans fielded Lucia Sdao, the England centre.

ENGLAND SENIOR SOLIAD: T Miller (East Dorset), T Papatto (Bedfordahre), S Fogarty (Bedfordshre), L Sdao (Maccie-eex), A Keyta (Surrey), F Murtagh (Essex Matroportism), J Rove (Surrey), K Love (Bedfordshre), S Young (Kenn), H Manufor (Macdieson),

TETATELOS CRICKETLINE THE ONLY SERVICE PUTTING MONEY BACK INTO CRICKET 1992 CRICKET WORLD CUP ENGLAND v | AUSTRALIA v **WEST INDIES** ZIMBABWE 0891-567-567 0891-567-555

Lineker looks to box clever

By PETER BARNARD

THE conversion of Gary Lineker from on-field front man to televison front man continues apace. Lineker, exemplary in the box, is said to be bound for a post-playing career on the box and he will have done himself no harm with a series on ITV I have only just discovered called Soccer in the '70s.

If this was simply part of the large nostalgia industry that appears to be taking over television. I would not give it a first glance, but the nostalgic element is only an excuse to fill an important gap. Television sport lacks nothing in action but is seri-ously lacking in human interest, a factor that gives all sports an important extra

Soccer in the '70s is transmitted on ITV early on Saturday afternoon, with Lineker in charge. He is not yet fully at ease, inexperience giving him a stiffness, a lack of fluency that is the very opposite of what we get from him on the pitch. But that problem is easily over-come and, in other respects, he handles the show well.

SPORT ON **TELEVISION** THE WEEK IN REVIEW

On Saturday, the guests were Mark Lawrenson and Jimmy Case, both former Liverpool players, and the former Tottenham Hotspur and England player, Alan Mullery. In between clips from games (the boring bit). Mullery and Lawrenson jointly contributed to one of

the more amusing football yarns I have beard lately. Lawrenson was playing for Preston North End and Mullery was managing Brighton. Each was on holiday in a different part of Spain when Brighton of-fered £100,000 for Lawrenson who, at the time, was imbibing "a few beers"

Guinness laced with blackcurrant juice. Lawrenson had so taken to this mixture that, when the Brighton chairman turned up, unannounced, his first experience of Lawrenson was to see the player fall off a bar stool. However, this proved no impediment to a deal and Lawrenson signed a blank — oh, trust-

ing days — contract.

Mullery continued with his Spanish holiday and Lawrenson returned home for a medical at which point Mullery received an alarmed call from the club doctor to say that Law-renson had failed the medical. He was diabetic.

In fact, he wasn't diabetic, but the Guinness and blackcurrant had combined to make it seem that he was. All ended happily, with Lawrenson assisting Brighton to promotion from the second division.
The programme also dis-

cussed a 1970s icon, Glenn Hoddle, reminding me of my ideal England team of the time: Hoddle and ten others. That he was not made the cornerstone of the team is, in my book one of the mysteries of the age. and I was sorry to hear Case and Lawrenson share the notion that Hoddle's prob-

lem was his dislike of the physical stuff. It took Lineker, who credited Hoddle with making most of his England goals when the two played together, to point out that there were surely umpteen play-ers to handle the physical side but not many with Hoddle's consummate skill.

If that is the kind of good sense Lineker will bring to a television career, one is tempted to say that he cannot retire soon enough. Per-haps we need to make him the game's first player-

Of course, these days, Hoddle's genius would have been coached out of him long before he reached a League club — a point nicely made in Saint 'n' Greavsie on Saturday.
This has not always been

my favourite programme but all credit to Ian St John and Jimmy Greaves for taking time to run an interview with John Cartwright, the Charlton Athletic youth coach, in which he attacked the shambolic way schools' football is run.

Greaves and St John -"naturals" in their day, with little need of stereotyped coaching — promised a return to the subject in future weeks. Good for them.

Faldo finds his swing

from film of Snead FROM MITCHELL PLATTS. GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN ORLANDO

GOLF

A HOME-movie of Sam Snead's swing has put Nick Faldo on course to regaining the Masters title at Augusta next month.

The movie was taken by David Leadbetter, the golf teacher, with whom Faldo stayed before playing in last week's Honda Classic in which he finished joint seventeenth. Faldo's intention during his seven days with Leadbetter was to erase his mechanical image. He believes that to improve he must feel more natural.
It is a remarkable change

of thinking from a player whose pursuit for perfection has led to him winning two Masters and two Open Championships. Yet it demonstrates his determination to get his game back in the groove following only one win in 20 months.

Faldo said: "The trouble is to make the swing feel natural is not natural because you are contorning the body into positions that feel unnatural. It was hard work until I saw

David's film of Snead. He filmed him on the practice range only a couple of years ago and I spotted how well Sam keeps his position throughout the swing.

"He stays so vertical through the whole swing, which is how I want to be, but I needed to see it to visualise it myself. I think of all the old school Sam Snead had the best swing of all."

For Faldo, of course, it is another challenge. To feel more natural he must first go through the metamorphosis of going from a curved look to keeping his spine straight throughout the whole swing. "I feel like Houdini at the moment but I'm getting there," he said. Faldo will hope to make further progress in the Nestie Invitational tournament, starting here tomorrow.

☐ Sponsorship of the Monte Carlo Open, to be played at Mont Agel from July 1 to 4 for a £430,000 purse, has been taken over by The European newspaper.

began to faiter. Serving for the match at 5-

Ivanisevic in four meetings with forehand and backhand passes of taut nerve and exquisite timing. Victory was greeted with a two-handed salute and all seemed to be forgiven, except by Ivanisevic, who reserved his final volley for Pereira. "He was bad. He should go to a junior tournament before he comes here again. McEnroe was complaining all the time and I

McEnroe, in contrast, thought the umpiring was just fine. "Paulo had a good night. He controlled the players well," he said. "The crowd bothered both of us. They were shouting all types of things. I don't know why they Stefan Edberg's denarture was rather less eventful. Having suffered the worst defeat of his career at the hands of a qualifier. Robbie Weiss, ranked 289, the No. 2 seed was asked whether a little more Connors-like emotion would not help. "When you are playing as badly as I am at the moment, there is nothing much to get excited about, I can tell you," he replied. "I cannot remember a time I have struggled as much as this." At present, Edberg is looking and play-

winning and impressing.

Getting a world title fight is

all about timing and what is

Ribalta, aged 28, is a matchmaker's dream, for he

has everything in his record

be beaten. He is a well-known

name, a former contender,

and has an outside chance of

hurting Bruno. Ribalta's durability record

looks excellent. He has been

the distance with Mike

Tyson, James "Boneciusher"

Smith and Tim Witherspoon,

the only three to have beaten

At 6ft 5in, Ribalta looks the

Bruno, all by knockout.

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TENN.

VINCENZO Materrese, the president of Bari, is prepared to start a massive new spending programme to keep David Platt at the Italian club

next season. Materrese, in Birmingham for the match with Aston Villa last night, said he was sure Plan would stay if relegation could be avoided. But Bari are fourth from bottom of the Italian first division, with four clubs going down at the end of the season.

"David will remain at Bari if we stay up and I am 100 per cent confident that we will," Materrese, who paid £5.5 million to Villa for the England midfield player last

A clause in his contract gives Platt the right to a move after one year if the club, promoted last season, return to the second division.

"Unfortunately, there is in-terest in him from other clubs," Materrese said. "It is not right to name them all but, if I tell you Juventus, that is the calibre of them."

Bari have already spent £23 million building a new team around Platt, who was made a captain. "With our ground. our club and our supporters, we are ready to invest more money," Materrese added.

Asked how much, he replied with a shrug: "We Materreses do not have to talk figures. Money is not important; football is important. We want to build a great club and to keep David Platt.

It takes more than one year."
The logic of yet more spending is explained by the Bari president in terms of attendances. These vary between 40,000 and 60,000. with 23,000 of them seasonricket holders. "If we can stay up, we will sell 35,000 season tickets," Materrese said.

Platt will not commit himself beyond the end of the season, when the European championship becomes his priority. "If we are as successful in the last uine matches as we have been in the previous nine. then we will not go

Platt keen to keep Italian job BY DENNIS SHAW then sit down and decide my

future, but I love it at Bari and I have been given a great deal of help by all concerned. It would not break my heart to stay there." The image of Arsenal, already cloudy after a trouble-

Bari are prepared to spend, spend to keep their prized possession

some season, suffered more harm on two fronts yesterday: First came the news that Ian Wright, the £2.5 million England forward, was the subject of a police investigation for the second time this

Then, in the club's after-noon reserve match at Loftus Road, three Arsenal players, including David O'Leary,

including David O'Leary, were sent off.

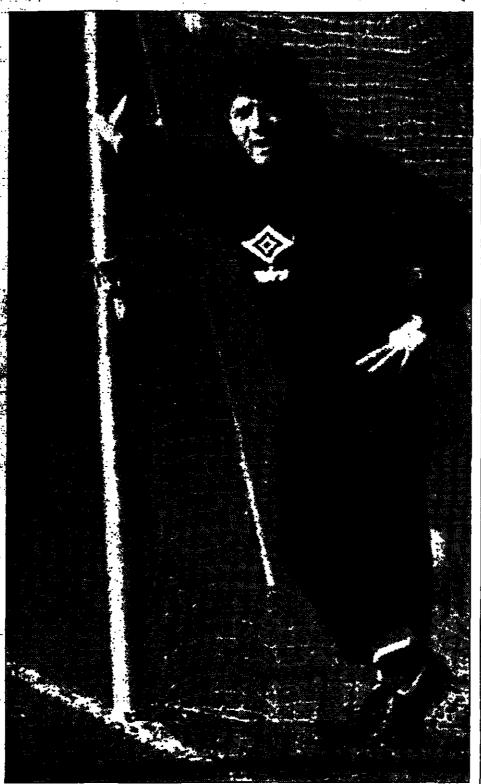
Wright, who was fined £1.500 by the Football Association in January, after a spirting incident during the first division match at Oldham in November, may be sufficient to further disciplinary action after a police investigate. into his conduct during the first division match at West Ham United last Saturday.

Local police have considered complaints from nine West Ham supporters, who claim Wright used footblan-guage. Wright, who scized both the Arsenal goals in a 2: 0 win, is also accused of abut-

Statements are being taken passed to the Football Association. David Bloomfield, an FA spokesman, said: "We are awaiting reports from the police before deciding what action, if any, should be

In the reserve match, which Arsenal won 3-1, O'Leary was dismissed along with his team-mates. Jim Will, the goalkeeper, and Ray Parlous, a midfield player. Paul off Michael Meaker, and booked four players from

Wales compete in the Kirin Cup, which also involves Argentina and the host nation, in Japan this summer. They play Argentina, for the first time in their history, in Gifu on June 3 and Japan in Mar-



Holding on to his post: Kevin Keegan, who was said over the weekend to be on the point of giving up the manager's job at Newcastle United, gives a lie to the stories as he takes his team in training yesterday morning

Barcelona on the brink Replay may settle

Barcelona's Holy Grail. Koeman or the aggresive inGreat players and great stincts of Hristo Stoichkov. drid's 3-2 defeat of FC teams have come and gone at the Nou Camp, without once bringing back the prize that lifted Real Madrid to nearlegendary status, and Real's success, on top of Barca's failure, has long been the club's driving motivation and greatest irritation.

Yet the belief is growing that this may be Barcelona's year. Hardened by the Cup Winners' Cup final defeat by Manchester United last May. the Spanish champions have steadily stepped up the defence of their league title and, more to the point, have a clear lead in group B of the Cup's round-robin semi-final stage.

A home victory tomorrow over a dispirited Dynamo Kiev seems a formality that will bring Wembley and the European Cup final on May 20 within Barcelona's sights. Kiev, the Ukrainians carry-

ing the flag for the defunct Soviet Union for the last time, would appear to have little

They lost, meekly, 2-0 to the Spaniards a fortnight ago and had little answer to the

THE European Cup remains defensive solidity of Ronald last series of European Cup Johann Cruyff, the Barcelo-

na coach, has ordered his assistant, Angel Vilda, to report on the Czechoslovak champions, Sparta Prague, in their match against Bentica. Vilda, who saw the two

teams draw 1-1 in Lisbon two weeks' ago, said yesterday he felt Sparta were "far superior" to the Benfica side that, earlier in the competition, outclassed Arsenal. The Barcelona v Sparta fix-

ture in Prague on April 1 may be the group's turning point. Red Star Belgrade, the cup holders and the leaders in group A, play their home tle with Panathinaikos in the Bulgarian capital, Sofia, because of the continuing unrest in Yugoslavia, while Sampdoria and Anderlecht, both of whom retain ambitions of reaching the final, meet in Genoa. Defeat for

their charices of progressing further. If Anderlecht's 3-2 defeat of the Italians in Brussels was the most exciting game in the

either would effectively end

Bruges was the highlight of

The return leg in Belgium may again overshadow AS Monaco's meeting with AS Roma and Werder Bremen's visit to Galatasaray in

the Cup Winners' Cup first-

Turkey. Monaco should capitalise on the 0-0 draw they earned in the Olympic stadium while Bremen are unlikely to concede much against their less

experienced hosts. Ajax could not have dreamed of finding their form at a more opportune moment. After a dour 0-0 draw in their Uefa Cup quar-ter-final first leg in Ghent, the Dutchmen were always slight favourites to enjoy the better of the second leg in Amster-dam, but the 7-0 thrashing of Twente Enschede on Saturday must have worned the

DRuud Gullit will almost certainly need surgery on a torn knee cartilage, putting him out of action for at least 40 days, AC Milan officials said yesterday.

Crosby's future

MALCOLM Crosby's job secunity would be considerably strengthened by victory over Chelsea in an FA Cup sixthround replay at Roker Park tonight. Although the Sunderland caretaker manager has been told he is in charge until May at least, the identity of the man who will be at the helm next season is a

subject of speculation. Formerly the club's reserve team coach, Crosby stepped up after the dismissal of Denis Smith at Christmas, Sunderland have blocked an approach for Crosby, who has lost only three of his 14 games in charge, to become Smith's assistant in his new job at Bristol City, while refusing to give him a permanent role at Roker. But should Crosby, aged 37. steer Sunderland into the semi-finals, it is likely he will be given the post.

Chelsea's chances will be enhanced by the return from suspension of Vinny Jones to a midfield which looked lightweight without him during last week's 1-1 draw at Stamford Bridge.

Chelsea or Sunderland will meet the winners of tonight's other sixth-round replay, be-tween Norwich City and Southampton at Carrow Road. Bowen is expected to be recalled by Norwich after six weeks in the reserves: Le Tissier returns to the Southampton attack after suspension, in place of Gilkes.

Manchester United can regain the first division leadership at the City Ground tonight. Victory against Not-tingham Forest will lift them a point clear of their nearest rivals, Leeds United, with two games in hand.

Although Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, has delayed naming his team, it is likely that he will make at least one, and possibly two, changes to the side which won at Sheffield United on Saturday. Hughes, the Weish international forward, is available after completing a two-match suspension, and Giggs, who was rested at the weekend; has also been included in a squad of great depth and experience.

YACHTING

Briton shows surfing skills

FROM BARRY PICKTHALL ANZIO, ITALY

BARRIE Edgington, Britain's recently crowned Olympic windsurfing class world champion, opened his bid for Olympic honours with a close second place at the Anzio pre-Olympic regatta here yesterday.

The day's results were apped by the Finn sailor. Richard Lott, gaining the measure of the former Olympian, Stuart Childerley, and two further fourth placings from Britain's two 470 crews, Paul Brotherton and Andy Hemmings, together with Debbie Jarvis and Sue Carr. Not to be outdone, Dave Wil-liams and Ian Rhodes were fifth in the Tornado class.

The regatta is the first of three trials to select Britain's representatives for six of the ten Olympic classes. Unfortunatly for Edgington, the Olympic board class is not one of them, but his position yesterday underlined his confidence. Penny Way, the for-mer women's world cham-pion, struggling to regain form, finished seventh.

profit, Struggtting an regain form, finished seventh.

RESULTS: First race: Olympic windsurfing class, men: 1, O Epetiad (Den) 2. B Edgington (UK), 3. T Wallner (Austria) Women: 1, J Horgen (Nor), 2 D de Vines (Neily), 3. A Sensin (II) British: 7. P Way Firin ainglehanded class: 1, L Devotii (II), 2. S Westergaard (Den), 3. F. Le Castreo (Fr) British: 4. R Lott; 8. S. Chidderley 470, men: 1, T Wellungo and K Yoshmura (Japan), 2, B Bengisson and J Nystrom (Swe), 3, T and T Tonste (Estona) British: 4. P Brotherton and A Hemmengs, 6. N Buckley and P Newstands. 10 (Prinnel and J Simpson Women: 1, S and M Ward (Den), 2. S Peters and W Buetle (Ger); 3, P Handwager and C Prinow (Ger) British: 5. D Jarvis and S Carr Flying Dutchman: 7 and V Benger (Fr), 2 O Polien and K Frostad (Nor), 3. P Foerster and S Bourdow (US) British: 15. C Apthop and J Lyne 18. C Maxheld and A Bowers 21, A Stead and P Alam. Star class: 1, J Doreste and J Castells (Sof); 2, f Benz and 8 Stegmest (Swilz), 3 P d'Ali and A Veggeth (II) British: 10, M Hicks and D Munge 11. A Cooper and D Hentage, 12, J Greenwood and M Covell, 13 D Howlett and P Lawrence Tomado: 1 O Schwall and R Schwall (Ger) 2, R Teylingen and P Manuel (Neith), 3 C Marston and S Ram (Swe) British: 5 D Williams and I Rhodes, 6; W Sumucks and R Guttendge, 7. T Robinson and B Grant

☐ Dennis Conner has taken the chainsaw to his America's Cup candidate, Stars & Stripes, in San Diego, excis-ing the transom to save about 60lb weight. The defender trials resume on March 28.

ROWING

Eton erratic but still the fastest

ETON won the Schools Head for the third year running yesterday, rising to the occasion in a year when a number of opponents had hopes of dethroning them (Mike Rosewell writes). Only six seconds separated the top five schools.

In spite of slightly erratic steering, Eton achieved their winning three-second margin in the second half of the Barnes to Putney course.

Shiplake were initially named as the second-placed crew, but David Porteus, the chief umpire, judged that they had impeded Hampton and a ten-second penalty was imposed, sufficient to drop them to ninth place. Hampton, the pre-race favourites, shared second place with Shrewsbury.

Lady Eleanor Holles won their annual confrontation with Kingston Grammar at girls eight level.

BOXING

Durable Ribalta likely to prove a test for Bruno

BY SRIKUMAR SEN. BOXING CORRESPONDENT

available."

FRANK Bruno's next opponent will be José Ribalta at Wembley Arena on April 22. it was announced yesterday by Bruno's promoter, Mickey Duff. The Cuban-born heavyweight is certainly a more acceptable name than John Emmen, of The Netherlands, who was beaten in one round by Bruno in his first comeback bout last November.

Duff said: "This is a step in the right direction. Ribalia's record speaks for itself. He has been in good company, including Tyson at his peak. The fact that he hasn't fought for a year is nothing these days. After all, Frank didn't fight for nearly three years. If he beats Ribalta well he will prove he is still the Frank Bruno we would like him to

"I would have preferred Francesco Damiani because then we would have had two undefeated European champions, and also because Damiani was the WBO [World Boxing Organisation] champion. But he turned down a \$300,000 offer.

Bruno said: "I hope after this I shall be taken more seriously in America. I was looking forward to Damiani but I have seen Ribalta in action and people should be happy with him as an oppo-nent. All I can do is try to keep part while he is throwing punches. But he is not too steady on his feet, and it is unlikely that he will be able to stand up to the first big clout Ribalta also took Pierre Coetzer, the world No. 1, all

the way and was beaten on a split decision. Therefore, if Bruno should achieve a quick victory. Duff would be able to make a strong case for Bruno to be moved up into the list of top-ten contenders.

Bruno, who has been training in a builder's yard in Canning Town. east London. moves to a health farm in Leicestershire next week to start training in earnest.

Mexican's technique encourages Clinton

By Srikumar Sen

PAT Clinton sets out to revive the great flyweight tradition of Scotland when he challenges Isidro Pèrez, of Mexico, for the World Boxing Organisation championship in Glasgow tonight.

The last time Scotland held a world flyweight championship was in 1946. The crowd of 50,000 saw Jackie Paterson outpoint Joe Curran at Hampden Park. Even if the Kelvin Hall is no match for the great stadium, the crowd will be no less enthusiastic about Clinton's attempt.

Northern Ireland, the International Boxing Federation champion. However, Pérez should bring out the best of Clinton. The Mexican, aged 29, is "a rough, tough

The Mexican's style should suit Clinton, a counterpunching type, providing he "My father always taught me, if a fellow can't hit you he can't beat you," Clinton says. His boxing earned him the British title, a Lonsdale belt and European title in Italy. If The man Clinton wanted to he can stay on his toes he meet was Dave McAuley, of should outpoint Perez clearly.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Marlow earns a spot in the Wales line-up

By Keith Macklin

GERALD Cordle, the Bradford Northern wing, is one of two changes in the Wales team to play France at the Vetch Field, Swansea, on Sunday. He takes the place on the substitutes' bench of Matthew Silva, who is in dispute with Halifax.

The other change brings in the Hull forward, lan Marlow, who qualifies for Wales through parentage. He comes in for Paul Moriarty, who is out for the rest of the season with an injured shoulder. Fitness tests proved successful yesterday for the captain, Jonathan Davies, Kevin Ellis, Adrian Hadley

and David Young. Great Britain Under-21 play the return fixture against France at Albi on Friday. The changes from the side which beat France 56-2 at Halifax bring in Steve McNamara and Gary Connolly for Steve McNamara and Richard Picksley, respectively.

WALES: P Ford (Leeds): J Devereura (Windeas), A Bateman (Warmgton), J Davies (Widnes, captar), A Sulivan (St Hetens): J Griffiths (St Hetens), K Ellis (Warrington), M Jones (Hull), B Williams (Carlesle), D Young (Saltord), R Ackerman (Carlesle), D Young (Saltord), R Ackerman (Carlesle), I Marlow (Hull), D Blahop (Hull KR), Substitutes: A Hadley (Saltord), R Phillips (Warmglon), G Cordle (Bractiond Northern), G Peatre (Phyedsle-York), Travelling reserves: I Stevens (Hull), Paul Kennett (Swnlion)
GREAT BRITTAIN UNDER-21 (v France Under 27, a) Alta, Friday) D Mycoe (Shelifield Eagles), D Myers (Wigan), G Connolly (St Helens), P Newlove (Featherstone Rovers), M Riley (St Helens), M Pearson (Featherstone), A O'Donnell (Wigan), P Summer (Warmgonon), G Southermood (Castedod), P Bonson (Featherstone), C Joynt (Ottham),

IN BRIEF

Olympians formed to set example

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The Olympians, an organisation of former British competitors in the Games, has been formed with the Princess Royal as president and Dr Liz Ferris as chairman. It is hoped that by the Atlanta centennial Games of 1996, it will be worldwide.

Educational programmes and special events to encourage young competitors will be among the Olympians' objectives.

Ringside view

Boxing: Billy Schwer, an undefeated lightweight from Luton, has been voted Best Young Boxer of 1991 by the Boxing Writers' Club. Herbie Hide, from Norwich, a heavyweight, was second and Robbie Regan, a flyweight, of Wales, third.

Duncan out

Skiing: Ronald Duncan, the defending men's downhill holder, has been forced out of the British Land national championships in Tignes. France, this week after a

recurrence of a back injury. Gavin Forsyth, from Stockport, was fastest in the first training run.

Rider killed

Equestrianism: Arabella Ralston Saul, aged 17, from Yeovil, died on Saturday after her horse fell on her during the novice section of the Peper Harow horse trials in Surrey. She had competed regularly at hunter trials.

All not lost

Baskethall: Trevor Gordon, the 6ft 10in former Kingston forward, who has been cut by his Belgian club. BAC Damme, remains in the Olympic plans of the Great Britain coach, Kevin Cadle.

Thomson again Bowls: Andrew Thomson be-

came the first man to win the British Isles indoor singles championship two years running when he defeated David Gourlay Jr 21-16 at Teignbridge, Newton Abbot. Devon, yesterday. Thomson also won the pairs for the second time with Gary Smith. Gourlay was again on the receiving end. going down 29-11 with Robert McCulloch.

BADMINTON

Gowers and Sankey strike back

GILLIAN Gowers and Sara Sankey, all-England semi-finalists for the last two years, proved again that they are as good as any pair in the world when they saved two match points to give England an unbeatable lead in the first of two internationals against Korea at Sheffield on Monday (Richard Eaton writes). England beat a team missing several players who made

Korea the Sudirman Cup world team champions 4-1. The all-important third victory came when Gowers and Sankey recovered from 11-14 down in the final game to win 7-15, 15-4, 17-15 against Park Soo-Yun and Bang Soo-Hyun.
The other live match saw

the English national champi-

on, Anders Nielsen, come

from 4-9 down in the first game and 3-7 down in the

second to beat the world

No. 19. Park Sung-Woo.

17-14, 18-15. The two teams met again at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham last night.

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND:
Attions Town 3, Cort City 2, Bray
Wanderers 0, Galway Utd 2, Droghada
Utd 0, Shamrock Rovers 0, Shebbourne 0,
Derry City 5, Sigo Rovers 1, Bohamians 2,
St Petrick's Ath 0, Dundalk 2, Leading
positions (after 29 matches) 1,
Shebbourne, 43; 2, Derry City, 39, 3, Cork
City, 38
NEVILLE OVENDEN COMBINATION:
Chelsea 2, Crystal Palaco 1; CPR 1
Arsenal 3, West Ham 0, Fulham 0 ENGLISH SCHOOLS ADIDAS UNDER-19 TROPHY: Regional semi-linal; Hampshire 1, Comwell 4.

FOOTBALL

Late results on Monday NEVILLE OVENDEN COMBINATION; Luton 3, Southampton 4. Milwell 2. Portamouth 0; Watford 1. Notvich 9 PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Asion Ville 2. Bolton 0: Bradford 0, Manchester Crly 1. Second division: Letesster 1, Meddlesorrough 2. Manfield 3, Port Vate 0 Wolverhampton 2. York 1 BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE Premier division Chelmsford D. Crawley Town 0 Southern division. Gosport Borough 0. Skitngbourne 3

DIADORA LEAGUE: First division: Har-low 2. Tooting and Mitcham 2. Second division: Russip Manor 3. Metropolitan Police 1. HFS LOANS LEAGUE Premier division Emiley 3, Accepton Stanley 1 SCHOOLS MATCH: English British Gas Trophy: Sami-Rhat: Leeds 1, Reading ()

BADMINTON SHEFFIED: England v Korea international: (English names first) Men's
singles: A Nistism bit Park Sung Woo. 1714, 18-15 Men's doubles: Ponting and D
Wright bit Lee Sung Bok and Shan Jin
Hwan. 152, 155 Women's singles: H
Trobe lost to Lee Heurg Soon, 9-72, 119-12 Women's doubles: Gowers and S
sankey bit Bang Soo Hyun and Park Soo
Yun, 7-15, 15-4, 17-15, Mixed doubles: N
Ponting and G Gowers bit Kim Hak Kyun
and Park Jim Hyun 15-7, 9-15, 15-12
England bit Korea, 4-1.

GOLF SONY WORLD RANKINGS: 1, I Woosnam (GB), 16:55pts average, 2, N Faido (GB), 16:11, 3, JM Olozabal (Sp), 15:84:4, S Ballesteros (So), 14:96; 5, F Couples (US), 14:65:5, B Langer (Gar), 13:89, 7 G Norman (Aus), 11:38, 8, P Siewart (US), 11:65:9, P Azinger (US), 10:38:10, M McNutly (Zra), 9:48, Other British: 17 R Rafferty 17:17.

BOWLS TEIGNBRIDGE, Newton Abbot: British Islas Indoor championship: Finals: Singles: A Thomson (Eng) bt D Gourlay, jnr. (Scot). 21-16 Junior: J Greenslade (Wales) bt N Boort (re) 21-16. Pairs: G Smith and A Thomson (Cyphers. Eng) bt D Gourlay Jnr and R McQulloch (Prestwick, Scot). 29-11 Triples: A Robertson, R McQumpsey and G Robertson (East Lottian Scot) bt B Moffatt J Henry and J McCture (Provincial Towns. Ira). 24-8. Fours: A McAlufan. E McNally. B McBrien and S Eleman (Belfast. Ira) bt D Bright; P Longmur D Hendry and J Bright (Perth. Scot). 24-18.

BOXING MEXICO CITY: WBC straw-weight title: Ricardo Lopez (Mex. holder) bit Domingo Domingo Lucas (Feipines) pité. CYCLING

TIRRENO-ADRIATICO RACE: Seventh stage: Torre San Patrizio 10 Montegranaro (184 Skm: Italian unleas stated): 1 M Argentin: 4th 28 Semin: 2 D Cassan; eame time. 3: 5 Colage, 3 seconds behind: 4 R Alcala (Max), 4:5, R Soransen (Den), 6 J Schur (Ger) 7: G Petito. 8: F Ballarin: 9 L Jalabert (Fr), 10, 8 Zberg (Switz) all same time. Overall standings: 1 Cassani, 30th 42 48mm; 2. Soransen 2 seconds behind: 3. Albala, 12, 4; F Jeker (Switz) 14, 5, L Sigita (Ven), 23: 6 Colage, 30: 7. A Chiuszio, 33: 8. G Perobon 38 equal 9 Zberg and 5 Roche (Ire) 41

ICE HOCKEY NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): New York Rangers 4 Montreel Carradians 1: Hert-tord Whalers 4 Calgary Flames 3

FOR THE RECORD ROWING

WOMEN'S EIGHTS HEAD RACE: 1, Tideway Sculiers A (Senior open winners), 15min 46sec; 2, Thames A, 19:54: 3, Thames Tradesmen A, 19:57: 4, Ostros A (Oxford) (University winners), 20:20, School junior; Kingston Grammar, 21:18. Overzeass; Bonner RG (Germany), 21:21. Novice: Emmanuel Cambridge, 21:38. Veteran; Thames E, 21:56

SCHOOLS EIGHTS HEAD RACE: 1. SCHOOLS EIGHTS HEAD RACE: 1. Eton A 12min 48sec; equal 2, Shreusbury A and Hampson A, 12-52 4, King's. Canterbury A and Hampson A, 12-54; 7, Keng's. Canterbury A 12-53, equal 5, Radley A and SI Edward's A, 12-54; 7, Keng's. Chester A, 12-56, Pangbourhe A, 13-00, 9. Shghake A: 13-01 (and 10-eec pen); equal 10. Westmenser A and Kongston GS A, 13-03. Team: St Edwards' Small School: Royal Belfast Academy Inst. 13-30, Junior 18: Edwards' C, 13-11. Junior 15: Abingdon E, 8-04 (short course) Junior 14: King's Wirmbledon F, 8-49 (sp.) Women's Junior: Lady Eleanor Holles A, 14-29 Junior 16: Lady Eleanor Holles B, 15-21



Thomson: indoor bowls victory at Teignbridge

TENNIS

TENNIS

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida: International Players Champlonahipa: Singles: Ment Third round: R Weiss (US) bt S Echeng (Swe), 6-3, 3-6, 6-4; P Sampres (US) bt J Connors (US), 6-3, 6-2; A Cheri-assov (CIS) bt E Senchez (Sp), 7-6, 5-2; B Becker (Ger) bt P Hearhuis (Neth), 6-4, 7-6; J McEnroe (US) bt G Ivernisevic (Crustia), 5-7, 7-5, 7-5; J Courier (US) bt A Gomez (Eo), 6-4, 6-7, 4-3 ret; M Chang (US) bt M Rosset (Switz), 4-6, 5-7, 7-6, 6-3; A Mencini (Arg) bt T Rostagno (US), 6-7, 7-6, 6-3; A Mancini (Arg) bt T Witsken (US), 6-4, 6-3; R Krascak (Neth) bt B Shelton (US), 6-3, 7-5; J Stark (US) bt S Bruguera (Sp), 6-3, 7-5; C Pioline (Fr) bt F Gilbert (Fr), 8-2, 6-4; J Hansek (Switz) bt J Yzage (Penu), 6-3, 6-3; C-U Steeth (Ger) bt F Cisvet (Sp), 6-1, 7-6; C Pioline (Fr) bt R Gilbert (Fr), 8-2, 6-2; G Sabatril (Arg) bt R Fairberk-Nichtier (SA), 6-2, 6-2, A Sancher-Vicanio (II), 6-2, 6-2, G Sancherlo (US), 6-2, 6-2, G Sancherlo (US), 6-3, 6-1, A Coetzer (SA) bt L Meshid (Georgia), 6-3, 4-1, ret; N Tauziet (Fr) bt N Medvedeva (CS), 6-4, 6-5; C Garris of R Regis Concato (II), 6-2, 6-1, A Coetzer (SA) bt L Meshid (Georgia), 6-3, 4-1, ret; N Tauziet (Fr) bt N Medvedeva (CS), 6-4, 6-6; C Ger Sancher (US) bt N Sawarnsteu (Japan), 6-4, 6-0; B Schultz (Neth) bt M Perco (Fr), 7-5, 1-5, 4-1 ret; R Zhubakova (C2), 6-4, 6-6; A Frazzer (US) bt P Shriver (US), 6-2, 6-4; G Francio (US), 6-1, 4-1, 7-5, 6-1; M J Fernandez (US) bt N Zererek (US) bt J Fernandez (US) bt N Zererek (US) bt J Fernandez (US) bt N Zererek (US), 6-4, 6-4 C Duthies: First round; R Barrisch (Po) and L Giltz (US) bt A Grunteld (GB) and H Ter Riet (Neth), 6-0, 6-3.

TABLE TENNIS

WORLD RANKINGS: 1, J Person (Swe); 2, J-O Waldner (Swe); 3, J-P Gathan (Fr.); 4, C Longcan (China); 5, A Grubba (Fol); 9, K Taek-son (S Kor); 7, C Z hibin (China); 8, J Rosakopf (Ger); 9, J-M Saive (Sel); 10, L Gun-seng (N Kor) Women; 1, D Yaping (China); 2, O Hong (China); 3, L Burn H-Li (N Kor), 4, G Jun (China); 5, L Burn H-Li (N Kor), 6, C Zihe (China); 7, C Po Wa (HK), 8, G Liguan (Can); 9, C Tan Liu (HK), 10, D Yaping (China);

نا مشمط سادانا

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Allente Hawks 89. Detroit Pistons 77: Indiana Pacers 95, Los Angeles Lakers 85: Chicago Bulls 116, Marre Heat 100: Cleveland Cavaliers 111, Washington Bulles 102; Charlotte Hornets 117, San Antonio Spurs 112. **RUGBY LEAGUE** STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP

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Liverpool need goals galore to sink Genoa

BY CLIVE WHITE

IF LIVERPOOL isil to over-haul Genon in their Uefa Cup quarter-final second leg at Anfield tonight, it will not be for want of vocal support.
The game has captured the imagination as rarely before for a midweek match on Mer-

discover exactly what the Italians are made of.

The finely balanced nature of the tie — Liverpool trail 2-0 from the first leg - together with the continuing novelty of a European match after the club's six-year exile, has been like a rallying call to its

supporters.
They, like the players themseives, do not share the view that Liverpool are about to surrender their unbeaten record in this competition, which they have won twice.

What a difference two weeks can make. Only the most partisan supporter would have given Liverpool any chance of rescuing this tie after Branco's 35-yard free kick screamed past Hooper in the 88th minute of the open-

Since then Barnes, Rush and Whelan have all recov-

By STUART JONES

FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

TOTTENHAM Hotspur

have become so anxious

about their domestic affairs

that Peter Shreeves regards

the second leg of the Europe-an Cup Winners' Cup quar-

ter-final against Feyenoord at

White Hart Lane tonight as a

welcome relief. For one night,

at least, he expects the pres-

sure mounting on him and

Yet the occasion represents

a critical point in the club's

troubled season. Should they

fail to recover from a one-goal

deficit, inflicted during a te-

they will be left with nothing

on their horizon but an igno-

minious scramble for survival

Success would alleviate not

only the abuse, which is being

thrown towards Shreeves,

his side to be eased.

in the first division.

QUARTER-FINALS

Liverpool 0, Genoa 2 Ajax (), Gheni () Real Madred 1, Sigma Olomouc Torno 2, BK 1903 Coppenhagen

ered — or partially so — from serious and protracted inju-ries, as has Michael Thomas. although he is ineligible for the game tonight. The flame

of hope still flickers.

Anxious not to put undue pressure on his team, Graeme Souness, the Liverpool manager, has made no demands on them for an early goal. "A quick goal would be one at any time in the first half," he

"If we can be kicking into the Kop in the second half only one goal adrift, we'll have a chance. This tie isn't beyond us but we will need some luck — the sort of luck the Italians enjoyed in the first leg."

Souness is not about to concede defeat in any competition, as anyone who saw him storm out of Selhurst Park on Saturday after the loss to Crystal Palace would tell you. It would be foolhardy of Liverpool to put all their

and Souness knows it.

Unlike Genos. Liverpool are obliged to make changes because of the welter of "foreigners" in their midst. Grobbelaar, the goalkeeper, will again be stood down in favour of four outfield "foreigners".

tainty in anyone's selection. and Rush and Saunders, their Welsh attacking duo, a necessity, it leaves just one position to be resolved, probably by either Whelan or

Molby, the Dane.
Sourcess would give no chies, though the word is that he will gamble on the fitness of Whelan, whose appear-ance in the FA Cup quarter-final against Aston Villa ten days ago was his first since

Jack Charlton, the Republic of Ireland manager, always used to say that Whelan's name was the first he wrote down on his team sheet. Souness may be about to do the same.



sign of the terrace times

this may be, but Albury Wodonga — where, earlier to-day, England played their final World Cup group match against Zimbabwe has been treated to the ritual of the Pommie invasion. Where they all came from nobody seems sure, but upwards of 5,000 English supporters have gathered in Australia for the World Cup

and they have not exactly disguised their affinity. The host nations apart, none of the teams can boast the following that England have attracted. If the numbers are huge, however, so too is the diversity.

Visually and vocally, Enand's support is dominat ed by the terrace type, the all-singing, all-chanting crowd who have turned successive cricket grounds into stage sets of the North Bank at Highbury. Slightly less conspicuous, though often identified by their club ties, are the travelling buffs, who devote traditional silence to their cricket watching and doubtless consider their terrace counterpart

uncouth and irreverent. The buffs are generally within groups organised by travel companies and crick-et publications. Their courier will invariably be a former player — Godfrey Evans, Tom Graveney, John Snow and Jack Simmons

Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent, finds **England's World Cup supporters**

taking a leaf out of the football book

are among those here. Most, but not all buffs, are regular cricket tourists. They will sit in reserved ar-

eas of the ground and stay in distinguished hotels. The terrace types are not so easily classified. Some are expatriates, others, with a pioneering spirit, have made independent trips. On match days they are magnetically drawn to-gether on the hill. They stay in backpackers' hostels or

cheap guest houses and patronise corner cafes and back-street laundrettes. Sometimes, the two types cross over and this is not always attractive. I cannot, for example, recommend the sight of middle-aged men wearing light blue Eng-land cricket shirts over their paunches and singing "Do-ing the Gladstone Small",

the rather personal terrace variation on "Doing the Lambeth Walk". The uniform of the travelling army is the team shirt, the marketing triumph of the World Cup. For a little under £20, the followers can look exactly like an England player and exactly like ev-

eryone else around them. It

was never quite the same in the old days, when cricket teams wore white.

Terrace watching has been a fascination of this World Cup even if some of the behaviour has been familiarly moronic. There has been the odd scrap, a little regrettable bloodshed, and there has almost always been a Mexican wave, especially when provoked by the electronic scoreboard in Sydney flashing its pompthrown in the air disturb

and worry fellow specta-tors." Red rag to the bulls. The singing has not been novel. England's terrace faithful have concentrated on the old standby, "You'll Never Walk Alone", and an import from another World Cup. "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot". "Land of Hope and Glory" has had an airing and, during the defeat of Australia, Paul Keating's ears were doubtless burn-

ing to repeated renditions of the National Anthem. The originality of the terraces have come from the banners. Prohibited on English grounds, along with flags, drums and more than a reasonable quantity of alcohol, banners are such an integral part of cricket watching in the Antipodes that at each game covered by Channel 9, one is nominated "Banner of the Day".

Some are unadventurous. simply if perversely proclaiming an allegiance to a football team. Leeds United are ubiquitous but Oxhey Wanderers and Milford on Sea FC were new to me. Last week in Melbourne,

"Derek Pringle is God" was perliaps a shade less ob-scure than "Dave Shoesmith is Very Small". while a goodly amount of thought had created "Beefy and Lamb and the Top Side will Roast You". I also joyed "Arfur Daley is Right, British is Best — Anyone Seen Terry? especially as Dennis Waterman, alias

Minder Terry, was there. The Queen has been in vogue with the banner brains and the demise of the Australian team has been gleefully illustrated. One banner read: "Germany 1990, Russia 1991, Australia 1992 — Disappearing Borders."

One of the biggest and most bullish of the past few days had a smug message. "World Cup Semi-Finals. Aussie-Free Zone." The perpetrator will spend today worrying he may have spoken too soon.

Pringle pays COStly

THE subconscious effects of England's escalating casualty list has cost Derek Pringle dear. He is unlikely to play again in this World Cup after sustaining an injury he could have minimised by withdraw-ing from Sunday's match against New Zealand in

paedic surgeon yesterday for

advice on the extent of damcure; time is one thing Pringle does not have. De-pressed and frustrated, he knows he has little chance of recovering in time for the semi-final at the weekend. What emerged yesterday, lowever, is that Pringle felt discomfort from the rib area before the Wellington game stances he might have pulled out but he was acutely aware that the team was already short of fit bowlers, so he said nothing. In his second spell, he felt a stabbing pain beneath the ribs and had to eave the field in mid-over.

"I first felt it when I was having a bowl at practice before the game." he said. "I didn't say anything because we had a lot of other injuries. I suppose I could have asked to be spared bowling but I got through the first spell all right before it completely went in the second.

"I knew immediately that I had to go off, it was such a sharp pain. I have never had an injury of this sort before, but I am told they take their time to heal. It's very upset-ting because I thought I was doing a reasonable job with

the new ball." Sydney: The other remaining teams in the cricket World Cup are ready to continue playing South Africa in the tournament even if yesterday's referendum on political reform in the republic pro-

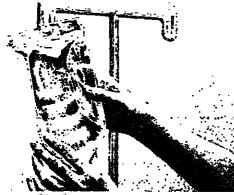
Geoff Dakin, president of the United Cricket Board of South Africa, said he would withdraw the team if the country voted against the continued dismantling of apartheid and any side subse quently refused to play them.

The West Indies Cricket Board of Control president, Clyde Walcott, said his team play the South Africans if the two teams reached the final. "We have a contract to play in the World Cup and that contract will be upheld."

The Australian captain, Allan Border, said it would be "a tragedy" if South Africa pulled out, while Imran Khan, the Pakistan captain, and Micky Stewart, the England manager, also added their support for South Africa's continued presence.

Results and tables, page 28 England A. page 28

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QUARTER-FINALS

Shreeves seeks reprieve

Tottenham Hotspur 0, Feyenoord 1 Galatasaray 1, Werder Bremen 2 Monaco 0, Roma 0 FC Bruges 2, Atlêtico Madrid 3

their manager, but also the tension which has gripped his side. In recalling the words of Count Galeazzo Ciano, Shreeves encapsulated the impact of tonight's outcome. "Victory has a hundred fathers," he said. "Defeat is an orphan. I read that somewhere once and it seems particularly appropriate to our through to the semi-final, and we've got every opportunity of doing so, it would certainly

ease matters." With cries for his dismissal growing in intensity on the terraces, he is in need of some

cheer. "It hasn't been the best seven days. I've experienced that before but it has not been directed across my flight path. The players have given me great support."

So has Terry Venables, the club's chief executive, who refuted speculation that he was becoming more involved in selection and preparation. Indeed, he insists that he would prefer to have a greater influence than he does. Nevertheless, he offers the manager his sympathy. "There must be something wrong if you don't feel sorry for somebody in his position. Venables said yesterday. "He

great dignity." Considering Tottenham's fortunes over the last nine months, Shreeves can be forgiven for imagining that his luck must turn soon.

He has been without Gascoigne for the season, his side has lost all confidence at home, his pitch has turned into a quagmire, his club has been disciplined by the Football Association and his leading goalscorer, Lineker, suffered through the illness of his son. He can be held responsible for little on that list. Tottenham, who have not won since January 8, will require more than a slice of luck if they are to reach the last four. As if to compound the problems, they will be without their regular full backs, Fenwick and Van den

Hawe, both of whom are automatically suspended. Bergsson and Edinburgh take their places in a line-up which will probably otherwise be unchanged. Lineker, who missed the last couple of games with a damaged hamstring, is described as "fit and

Feyenoord, as they demon-strated in their own home, are almost impregnable. They have conceded just two goals in their last 17 fixtures and none in the tournament so far. Tottenham's task is difficult but Shreeves recalls that they overturned a similar deficit against Porto, appreciably more talented opposition.

Marshall's injury worries West Indies consistent players in the toura serious worry over Malcolm nament, was receiving treatment on a neck injury but their physiotherapist, Errol

Marshall, their fast bowler, going into the decisive World Cup group match against Australia here earlier today. The match will decide which team joins New Zealand, England and South Africa in would ensure their passage

the semi-finals. Marshall has an ankle injury and Richie Richardson, the captain, said yesterday that a final decision would not be made until shortly before the day-night game. Australia's left-arm pace bowler. Mike Whitney, who

Alcott, said he was confident Whitney would play.

A win for West Indies

through to the semi-finals. Australia have to win by about 35 runs or make the winning runs no later than the 43rd over and rely on New Zealand having beaten Pakistan in Christchurch.

"One advantage is we will know the result in New Zealand early in our game," the Australian captain, Allan

it comes down to us just playing for pride but West Indies

still going for a win." Border said he would probably put West Indies in if he won the toss. "I would think it probably best to bowl first and try and knock them over." he said.

Net run-rate will decide the fourth semi-finalist if both West Indies and Pakistan lose, and Border will almost need a calculator to work out Australia's progress.

Richardson, though, is not concerned with such details. "I'm not interested in mathehe said.

Both teams practised in cold, gloomy conditions and similar weather was forecast for today. In Colombo, Sri Lanka's

miserable performance at the World Cup was described as being like "village green cricket" by the team manager, Duleep Mendis. "No excuses, it was a per-

formance by the Lankars that resembled village green cricket." Mendis, a former Test captain, said. He added that the players lacked discipline and the courage to pro-

Clubs to have £200m for seats

duce runs. Sri Lanka failed to reach the last four after losing five matches, two of them by massive margins to England and the West Indies in the

Dast week. However, they did beat Zimbabwe and South Africa and shared a point with India after rain washed out their

"If I had played, I could have performed better than some of the batsmen." Mendis added. "I am ashamed of their performance. Some of them should

Jobs for Christie's workforce

has been one of their few

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

THE British athletics workforce will have to be as good as Linford Christie predicts they will be at the Olympic Games this summer if they are to keep pace with the success of those who make sure they get paid. Recession? What recession? Another big sponsorship deal was an-

nounced yesterday. The end-of-season meeting at Sheffield is to be known as the Lucozade Games for the next four years. This year, on August 14, it will be the first meeting in Britain after the Olympics. Christie, the men's

team captain, expects the workforce to come back laden with medals: "I think it could be Britain's best-ever Olympic Games," he said yester-The £2 million package also

secures Lucozade as the official sport's drink supplier to British athletics. When Dairy Crest withdrew from sponsorship in January, it was the third leading backer in six months to stand down, following McVitie's and ParcelForce. But the recovery is almost complete. TSB came in with £2.5 million over three years and Alan Pascoe Associates, the marketing agency to the British Athletic Federation, said yesterday that it was confident that the Lucozade deal would be followed by sponsorship announcements for the IAAF grand prix meeting at Crystal Palace and the invitation

"The projected income from the televised events in 1992 will be higher than it was in 1991 even without a grand prix sponsor so far." Matthew Wheeler, of APA.

and the second s

meeting at Gateshead.

By JOHN GOODBODY

THE Government yesterday announced that football would be receiving a further £100 million so that all clubs could have all-seat stadiums by 2000.

Norman Lamont, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, has extended the reduction in pools betting duty for a further five years after 1995 to give League and Scottish clubs a total of £200 million over ten years to implement the recommendations of the

Taylor Report. First and second division clubs must be all-seat by

1994-5 and third and fourth divisions by 1999-2000, although many dubs will have

to raise huge amounts of additional money to convert their grounds. The Football Supporters' Association and the National Federation of Supporters' Clubs have both campaigned for clubs to have some safe terracing because many people prefer standing.

Despite the welcome infusion of government money, there is mounting concern that the cash is being spent on renovating old stadiums, many of which are badly sited, rather than in constructing new grounds. Taylor's wish for more clubs to share grounds has also largely gone unheeded.

The money will still be filtered through the Football Trust, which has already distributed £40 million to clubs. A further £60 million remains 3 from the original five-year pledge by the government Reductions in the betting tax on football from 42.5 per cent to 40 per cent have made the money available



The true blue who is fighting the

LIFE & TIMES



Who controls television when elections come round?

pay Cost

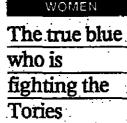
Still, even travesties have their uses. Glenn Close sometimes gives the impression she is belatedly thinking of suing a dentist for stinting on the Novocaine during a tooth extraction. Hackman may look rather less menaced by her than the average New Yorker stuck with a nuisance lawsuit. And Dreyfuss may traipse about as welly as an attorney who has lost his way to the courthouse. But they incontrovertibly prove that the Muses are not to be seduced by big

On the contrary, this Death and the Maiden makes an instructive case-study. It shows that sentimen-(a) direction and bland acting can reduce a scathing morality play into the kind of sweetly-sour love drama that flabbily oozes from two or three cable channels every television night.

Let me back up a moment.
Dorfman wrote the play after
returning from exile to postPinochet Chile, where he found his countrymen simultaneously licking their wounds, struggling towards democracy and appeasing a still-powerful army. His characters were to be the nation in microcosm, all of them victims, none of them clear heroes or villains.

We were to be left with more

questions than answers. Had Paulina been mentally warped by the violent ordeal that had tormented her for 15 long years? Was Roberto really the sly Mengele who played Schubert and murmured sadistically while she writhed? Was her husband Gerardo right to object when a gun-toting Paulina put his houseguest on trial, or was there something rather bloodless about his



WEDNESDAY MARCH 18 1992

A trivial death on Broadway



Pitiful: Gene Hackman, left, Richard Dreyfuss and Glenn Close. The Broadway audience were chortling at moments when, in the London production, they were wondering how to de-ice their spines

faith in disinterested justice?

The play made the abstract concrete and the political as burningly human as the latest casehistory unearthed by Amnesty International and, at least in grand total of £90,000 covered the costs of the six-week run at the Court, from the building of the set to actors' wages of just £210 a week each. It took another £110,000 to transfer the production to the West End, where performers' salaries are higher but there are more seats to be sold. At the Court, tickets ranged from £5 to £15, and the final surplus was £55,000. At the Duke of York's, the best seats cost £18 and, since they are sold out for weeks ahead, a good profit

Compare this with the production at the Brooks Atkinson. No student of Broadway will be surprised by the total price-tag of £750,000, nor by the £60,000-odd that one unchanging set cost. But there has been acerbic comment on a report that Nichols's direction will bring him £19,000 a

Moreover, one producer tells me. that each performer will receive six per cent of the gross takings. Since this should be £185,000 a week, that would mean an £11,000 wage for Close, Dreyfuss and Hackman. Still, the public is prepared to pay up to £30 a seat to see them. The same producer, Fred Zollo, expects the play to be in profit in 16

Who can doubt him, either? Broadway thrives on excitement, hype and gossip; and there was more than the usual chatter Square pond as Death and the Maiden neared its opening. His-panic actors handed out leaflets protesting against so blatantly non-Hispanic a cast. Glenn Close, who had missed several previews through what turned out to be pneumonia, was rumoured to be unhappy with the production. There was what Zollo diplomati-cally called "creative tension" between Dorfman and Nichols, especially after the latter gave an interview saying that the play was "a thriller about the intimate lives of three people and the ways in which their sexual natures are intertwined. I can't", he added. "see this as a political play in any

orfman - must have calling King Lear non-tragic. It is as sensible as Peter O'Toole's defence of his unintentionally hilarious Macheth: "really a very funny play". Moreover, it helps explain why the American produc-tion gutters where the English one

Gerardo about Roberto's fate skit-

brought hidden conflicts into the open and gave hope to a relationship under stress. No wonder the stakes seem so way. And I consider that a plus."

been appalled. To call Death and the Maiden non-political is like sickened when he makes what may and may not be a false confession; but he is never in as much terror for his life as Michael takes intellectual fire. The argu-Byrne in London. For Bill Paterments between Paulina and son's gritty intensity, Dreyfuss

ter by so rapidly that I had to check afterwards if they were not cut and am still wondering if the text was trimmed. For Nichols, they were clearly interesting only contained. For him, Roberto was a sort of inadvertent marriage guidance counsellor: the catalyst who

much lower than in London. There, we are always aware that the issue is what to do with a fascist lackey who may have repeatedly raped a woman after passing electric shocks through her vagina. Here, it is how to cope with the kind of problem caring folk face as often in Ohio or Idaho as in Chile or Argentina. Indeed, Nichols is on record as comparing Paulina's predicament with that of American women in some well-

publicised recent cases, instance, Anita Hill's in the Judge Thomas hearings. Prolonged torture equals verbal molestation, or so it seems. This ludicrous reductionism inevitably damages all three performances. Hackman seems properly

substitutes the flummoxed concern of a well-meaning husband whose difficult wife is having one of her bad days. The prospect of personal and professional ruin moves him about as much as if he saucepan and the spaghetti in the washing machine.

But can he be blamed when Close is always more sorrowful than traumatised? Her performance is oddly elegiac and lacking in bite. She is ruefully revisiting painful memories, not squirming as they blister her. The horror, bitterness, hysteria, scorching irony and vindictive glee Stevenson finds in the role seem beyond her. as do the darker, more secret emotions on show in London. At one point, Stevenson opens her trussed victim's shirt and runs her hands slowly towards his genitals, a strange sexual fascination on her face. Close simply touches his exposed knees, her back to us, then scampers off behind the scenes.

American actors are conventionally supposed to lack intellectual rigour, but to bring greater emotional energy to their roles than the British. Not here. The atmosphere is so relaxed that the audience at the press preview laughed cheerily at moments when Londoners were wondering how to de-ice their spines. Even a reference to cutting off Hackman's testicles was greeted with the canned merriment we expect

find in television sitcoms. Equity thought enough for a visa to Broadway. You were well out of it. Paulina may be half-mad, but this produc-Death and the Maiden needs Esau to direct it, and got an American Jacob instead. The set is

very fine. A "beach house"

(Dorfman's word) that in London

Finally, I have a message for

Juliet Stevenson, whom American

painful than the play.

from a DIY kit has become an imposing villa: all white pillars. But with the roughness has gone the urgency and the danger. A Women. terrible smoothness rules. One has Media. repeatedly to pinch oneself to Homes. remember that the subject is Law Report. torture; and the pinching is more TV, radio

> TOMORROW Warren Beatty's turbulent career

tion would have sent you to the

Hands off my bank statements, darling

have been much perplexed by an advertisement on television for the Norwich Union. Perhaps you have seen it. It is glossy and romantic and underscored with strings, and goes something like this:

When Jamie moved in, of course, he had nothing at all. Just the cello and the winning smile. And he said that under no circumstances was I to buy him socks, or food, or cello strings. But quite honestly I knew (Shot of man and woman in a fashionable shop. Woman smiles inanely and shells out large sum for a winter wardrobe).

"Then one day he said, 'Hey! Let me take you to Paris! And it was really great. Of course there was a bit of a mix-up in the restaurant on the first evening. (Shot of sweet, curly-haired man with his pockers turned inside out and a large question mark in the air above his head.) What do I know of your pounds and farthings,' he said. 'I am a mere child. But luckily I knew (Woman reaches for hand-

bag, and saves the day.) "And then we were out walking and he said to me, 'Darling why don't we get married? You know that all I have is yours, and it would be quite nice if all you had was mine, too, What do you say?"

A CAS

表数 ""

fully happy in autumnal setting, the woman not suspicious in the least). And I thought, I knew!"

Now, the interesting thing about this ad is that it is not a parody or a joke. And anyone who thinks so must therefore be a tired old cynic, with no romance in her soul. Which makes me feel very ashamed, of course, because I always watch it waiting to cheer and whoop at the moment when the woman finally chops him smartly across the back of the neck and steps over his prone groaning body, saying to herself "I bloody knew". I can't see the romance in this set-up; it smacks too obviously of a Hitchcock plot. "Are you blind? I yell at the dotting fool with the chequebook. "Don't you see he only loves you for your Norwich Union investments?

The trouble with being returned to the single state. I find, is that it triggers all this deep suspicion of romance. So perhaps the Norwich Union ad simply took a blunt hack-saw to a raw nerve. But where does the cynicism come from in the first place? Looking at this scenario, one is presumably supposed to see this couple des-tined for a Disney Technicolor happy-ever-after, complete with big-eyed chipmunks and a pointy SINGLE LIFE

Lynne Truss finds even Disney cannot cure her cynicism



yellow castle. You are supposed to turn off the TV afterwards and sing Some day my prince will come", while studying your reflection in a wishing well.

I don't, of course. I gave up singing into wishing wells on the day I realised how easy it would be for someone to come up behind me and push me in. But, being a up operation. "Let's clean this little bit literal-minded, I thought that house," she trills, "and perhaps its

recapture a bit of the lost innocence; and that a trip to a kiddies's matinee might prove an invaluable cathartic experience. Thus it was that, last Saturday afternoon. I queued up rather conspicuously with some toddlers sniffing an onion and trying to get weepy at the idea of a prince in mauve

Dwarfs on re-release. I might try to

The trip was a mixed success. I found that I didn't yearn for the prince very much; but I didn't feel very bitter either. On the other hand, my cynicism found scope in other quite unexpected directions. Just look at the way Snow White worms herself into the affections of those naïve dwarfs! "You are blind, dwarfs, blind!" I wanted to yell. (It was the ne'er-do-well cello player all over again.) "She's taking your beds! She's making pies from your gooseberries! Are you telling me she doesn't know you are in the diamond business? And that you dig, dig, dig, etcetera

I think I am on to something, actually. I mean, look at the way she gets all the fluffy trusting woodland animals to do the dirty work in the "Chez Dwarf" cleanwith Snow White and the Seven. little owners will let me stay." So

from early morn till night?

she proceeds to chirrup gaily and lean lightly on a broom, while the bluebirds and bunny rabbits dash about with crockery, and cheerfully tackle the laundry. And what do they get out of it, precisely? While everyone is busy. Snow White somehow rustles up a nice dinner for the dwarfs, by stewing an unspecified something-or-other in a large pot. The little animals continue to dust and polish, never once sniffing the air and saying Smells good. Hey, where did

Arnie go? Anyone here seen Arnie? My trip didn't really solve my anxiety over the Norwich Union advert. I still watch it aghast, imagining the harrowing unscreened scenes - the man riffling thoughtfully through his girlfriend's bank statements while she is out at work; the hand-holding trip to the solicitor to make wills in one another's favour. Snow White's bunnies cluster at my feet. with their little paws over their eyes, and we shake our heads in unison, as the man finally places a' bar of soap on the top stair, and then pops down to the shed to put the finishing touches on a glass-

TOMORROW Private life: John Diamond

topped coffin.

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✓ motoring for Eu	
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BOURNEMOUTH SINFONIETTA: The Simionietts's adventurous programming brings the world premiere of the chamber orches version of Sir Harrison Birtwette Cermen Accesse Mechanicas
Perpetuum (1977) — "sh musical
mechanisms juxtaposed many times
who are transition" — as
well as pieces by Boccherini (String
Quintet Op 30 No 8, evocathirely
whether in bloch 1 transition to the subtified "Night Music in the Streets of Medrid"). Haydn (Symphony No 104) and, with Dmitri Alexeev, Beethoven (First Plane Consent). Alexandria First Plano Concerto). Alexandre

Kingland Road, Poole (0202 685222). 7 30pm ORFEO: Powerful performance from English National Opera in a revival of David Freeman's admired production of the Nontheverdi opera, complements by Hayden Griffin's rich designs. Anthony Rotte Johnson returns in the title role, with Marie Angel as Eurydice and Satly Burgasca as the Messenger. Herry Bicket conducts. um, St Martin's Lane, London

onducts. The same programm ited at the Wyvern Theatre.

Swincon, komentw. Wessex Hall, Poole Arts Centre,

WC2 (071-836 3161), 7-30pm. SCOTTISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA: Purists may blanch at the thought of the SCO, with its nonbaroque instruments, daring to tackle Handel's great cratorio Saul, however a stylish and fresh performance can be risancia's great cratorio Saut, however is styfeth and fresh performance can be expected. Nicholas Kraemer conducts, and Lyme Dawson, Michael Chance, Rufus Muller, Michael George, Jonathan Best and the SCO Chorus ell sing. The same programme is repeated at Queen's Hall, Edinburgh. City Half, Candleriggs, Glasgow (041-227 5511), 7.30pm.

M ANGELS IN AMERICA: Strong performences in Tony Kushner's longish but vigorous drama: Aids, religion, politics, everything National (Cottestos), South Bank, SE1 (071-926 2252). Tonight, Iomonow, 7.30pm 210mins

ANNA KARENINA: Flair and imagination in Shared Experience's rewarding version of Tolstoy's novel, Tricycle, Kilburn High Road, NW6 (071-328 1000). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat,

mpression of the Harlem night spot. high on energy, low on story freshness. Altwych, The Aldwych, WC2 (071-836 6404) Mon-Fri, 7:30pm, Set, 8pm, mats Wed, 2:30pm, Set, 4pm. 150mms. THE CRACKWALKER: Urban LINE UNAUKWALIKER: Urben savagery in Ontario; violence, abuse grief: strong atuff, served straight. Gate, Prince Albert Pub, Pembridge Road, Wrl. (071-229 0705). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm 150mine.

☐ DANCING AT LUGHNASA: Brian Friel's Olivier Award-winning memory-play, set in Thirties Donegal. Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-494 5085) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thure, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. 150mins. Final

F DEATH AND THE MAIDEN: Juliet The bear in Arist Dyrne, Bill Paterson superb in Arist Dorfmen's Chilean political drams. Best play of 1991. Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-836 5122). Mon-Set, 8pm. rests Thurs. Spm., Set, 4pm. 120mins.

AN EVENING WITH GARY LINEKÉR: Sometimes droil look at fantasies of a woman married to a

Duchess, Catherine Street, WC2 (071-494 5075). Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 6pm and 8.45pm. 130mins. II FROM A JACK TO A KING: Witty and stylish version of Macbeth's climb and stylish version of Macbeth's ci to the top, set in the world of rock bands and packed with Sottes songs. Boulevard, Walker's Court, off Peter Street, W1 (071-437 2681 after 2pm). Mon-Sat, 8.15pm, Fri late show, 10.30pm, mai Set, 6pm, 90mms.

GOOD ROCKIN' TONITE: Satisfying musical celebrating Fiftles and Sixtles pop classics. Great stuff. Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue (071-839 4401). Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri. Sal., 5.30pm and 8.30pm, 135mins.

NEW RELEASES

FRIED GREEN TOMATOES AT THE

HEAR MY SONG (15): Promoter seeks wanted an Britain for lax eva Shaggy dog tale with mo MGM Chelses (071-352 5095) MGM Haymurket (071-839 1527) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Odeon Kensington (0426 914666) Odeon Marbie Arch (0426 914501) Whitel

LIGHT SLEEPER (15) Lugubrik elegy to the Eighties drug scene from writer-director Paul Schrader, parity saved by Willem Dafoe as a loner stumbling towards redemption. With Suson Serendon. Curzon West End (071-439 4805) CURRENT

BARTON FINK (15): The Coen brothers' marveuous measure consey about a New York playwright all at sea in 1940s Hollywood Starring John Turturro, John Goodman. A triple Gate (071-727 4043) Lumière (071-836 0691) Screen on the Hill (071-435

BLACK ROBE (15) Seventeenth century Jesuit (Lottrare Bluteau) tries to convert Indians an northern Quebec. Intelligent epic from Brian Mooro's noval. Director. Bruce Berestord MGM Trocadero (071-436 914665) Plaza (071-497 9999)

◆ CAPE FEAR (18) Demonic ex-con

TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and inment comp Karl Knight

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: This week's instalment in the "Towards the Millerunium" testival consists of Debussy's Jeur, the "poème danse" chreographed by Nijnsky and composed in 1912-13, Eigar's symphonic study Faletaff (1913) and Stravinsky's bellet The Rite of Spring (1911-13). Simon Pattile conducts. The concert is repeated at St David's Hell, Cardiff, tomarrow. Symphony Hell, Broad Street, Brminghem (021-212-3333), 7-30pm. CITY OF BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY

LONDON CITY BALLET: The compeny's apring tour comes to Crawley with two programmes: the first offers the full-length ballet Romeo and Juliet, and the second, a triple bill comprising Samsova's staging of the Laurencia pas de set, the Greeke pas de deux, and Peter Danes's Othelle. Hawth Theatre, Hawth Avenue, Crawley (0293 553636), 1.30pm and 7.30pm.

TOM PETTY AND THE HEARTBREAKERS: Last seen in this country supporting Bob Dylan in 1987, the hard-hitting American rockers deservedly take centre stage this time round. Past of two performances in Dublin. The Point, Dublin (010 3531 363 633).

STRAIGHT AND NARROW: Television personalities Nicholas Lyndhurat and Carmel McSharry play son and doing mum in a new family comedy by Jimmia Chinn which opens

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of current London theatre House full, returns only ☐ Seats at all prices

☐ A HARD HEART: Architect Anne Massey destroys what she clams to love in Barker's complex, and play. Almelda, Armelda Street, N1 (071-359 4404). Mon-Sal, Bpm, mat Sat, 4pm. SSmine

MAKING IT BETTER: James Saunders' subtle play concerned with ideals, reality and liberation in Prague and London; Jane Asher in an eru Currani, mans common de exemplery cast of four. Hampstead, Swiss Collage Centre, NW3 (071-722 8301). Mon-Set, Bpm, mat

MEASURE FOR MEASURE LI MEASURE: FOR MEASURE: Trever Num's engressing production: David Heig fatally tempted by Claire Sidmer in Fraud's Vienna. Young Vic, The Cut, SE1 (071-820 0411/928 6363). Mon-Sat, 7.15pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 2pm. 210mins.

☐ PHANTOM OF THE OPERAS Gleefut version of the GMP-IAC Gleefut version of the old hriller: tunes by Offenbach, Verdi and Weber but not Lloyd Webber. Shaftesbury. Shafteebury Avenue, WC2 (071-379 5399). Mon-Fd, 7-30pm, Sat, 8-30pm, mets Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 5pm, 150mins.

☐ THE POCKET DREAM: Foolist LI THE PUCKET OFFICIANT POSIBIN burliseque of A Midsurmar Night's Dream, with Misk McShane and Sendi Toksvig, Dedicated bare only. Albery, SI Mertin's Lane, WC2 (071-867 1115). Tues-Set, 7.45pm, meta Set, Sun, 3pm, 135mins.

I PYGMIES IN THE RUINS: Lift Tolenies in the Human Uncomfortable play by Ron Hutchinac being the andelies of a Belliast edie haunted by his city's past. Royal Court, Sloane Squere, SW1 (071-730 1745/2554). Mon-Set, Spm, met Set, 4pm. 145mins. Final week. THE SEA: Judi Dench solendid as

the village grande-dame in Edward Bond's comedy of rage and mediness. National (Lythsition), South Benk, SE1 (071-928 2252). Tonight, tomorrow. 7.30pm, mat tomorrow, 2.15pm.

Yeudeville The Strand, WCZ (U71-836 9987). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 5.30pm, 140mins. TALKING HEADS: Patricle deciste lives. Comedy, Panton Street, SW1 (071-867 1045). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. 150mins.

Wyndham's Theatre, Charling Cross Road, WC2 (071-887 1116), 7pm.

LIKE NO ITHING BLUE IN TENNESSEE: Many soulptors and painters today, from Conceptual to Post-Modern, somehow incorporate or refer to architecture in their work. The relationship may be tanciful or decumentary, but the use of architectural motifs or the making of architectural motifs or the making of architecture in miniature gives fise to

architecture in ministure gives rise to lively as well as deadly art. The presen

Inverse as were accessory art. The present show (title from a poem by Wallace Stevens) leaves out now established figures like the Pointers, Charles Simonds and Ben Johnson, and instead infroduces a variety of younger artists virtually unknown in Britain, along with our own Julian Ople and Dan Graham. Sementing Reliters (Resignation.)

Serpentine Gallery, Kensington . Gardens, London W2 (071-402-8075). Daily, 10am-8pm, until April 25.

ALEXANDER CALDER: The man who

accused of many things, including culpable insubstantiality, but lack of invention would hardly be one of them. To go to a Calder exhibition is to enter, willy-nilly, into his earn happy world of bright primary colours and flattering shapes ever on the move. For him life is a circus, often literally: In earlier years he made many drawings and wire aculptures on circus themes. Even his late "stabiles" are full of movement, force of easems just for the moment.

Inzen it seems just by the moment. Royal Academy of Arts. Piccadily, London W1 (071-438 7438). Daily, 10am

ANGELA OCCHIPINTI: A show of paintings and engravings com the Peruguian-born artist betw

SOPHISTICATED LADIES: Twelve airger-dancers whild through the music of Duke Ellington. Obvious routines carnot diaguise the true rushii Duke. Stobe, Shaltesbury Averue, W1 (071-484 5095), Mon-Fri, Byrn, Sal, 8,30pm, malb Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm, 130mins.

A SWELL PARTY: Four singers, two plants in likeable tribute to Cole

1988-1991.

thought up the mobile could be accused of many things, including culpable insubstantiality, but tack of

LIKE NOTHING ELSE IN

☐ A TRIBUTE TO THE BLUES BROTHERS: Lively parade of tuneful oldfes. Good tun. Whitehell, Whitehell, SW1 (071-957 1119). Mon-Thurs, 8.15pm, Pri, Set, 6.15pm end 9pm. 120mins. WIND IN THE WILLOWS: Final performances this season of the hit WIND IN THE WILLOWS: Finel performance this season of the hit version by Alan Bennett. National (Offvier), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Tonght-Set, 7.15pm, mel tomorrow, Set, Zpm, 205mins.

(071-3375) The Property of the Combridge (071-379 5299) ... 2 Startight Express: Apollo Victoria (071-828 8686) Thursderbirds F.A.B. — The Next Generation: Ambassadors (071-836 6111) . . . Zi The Women in Black: ne (071-838 2238).

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ♦) on release across the country

unpleasant remake of a classic re thriller. With Jessica Lange, Julie Lewis. Barbican (071-638 8891) Camden Parkwey (071-287 7034) Empire (071-497 9999) MGM Baker Street (071-935 9772) MGM Futhern Road (071-370 2538) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Screen on the Green (071-226 3520) Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

DEATH IN BRUNSWICK (15): Sam Neill as an ageing mother's boy sucked into love, violence and accidental nito lovo, violence and mody from new murder. Tasty black comedy from new Australian director John Rusine. MGM Tottenham Court Road (071-34/344 Chalses (071-352

THE DOUBLE LIFE OF VERONIQUE (15) Krzysztoł Kieslowski s britisantły filmed conundrum about two gale (one Polsh, one French) who seem to share FATHER OF THE BRIDE (PG):

Daughter's impending wedding drives Steve Martin crazy. Disappointing remake of the 1950 classic; for audiences who want to be spoon-fed With Drane Keaton, director, Charles MGM Chelses (071.352 5096) MGM Oxford Street (071-536 0310) Odeons Kensington (0426 914666) West End (0426 915574) Whiteleys (071-792

JFK (15) Oliver Stone's contentious, electrifying, three-hour drama about the Kennedy

cruseding D.A. Jim Garrison; a buetlin supporting cast. MGM Fuffism Road (071-370 2635) MGM Shaffassbury Avenue (071-836 8279/379 7025) MGM Trocadero (071 434 0031) Odeon Mezzanine (0428 915963) Pisza (071-497 9999) Screen on Baker Street (071-495 2772) Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

Ticket information supplied by Society of West End Theatre

♦ THE LAST BOY SCOUT (18): Bruce Willis as a world-weary detectly embroiled in L.A. corruption. Crowd-pleasing action movie, piled with bulle and jokes. With Damon Wayans; director. Tony Scott. MGM Fulham Road (071-970 2636) MGM Haymarket (071-838 1527) MGM Oxford Street (071-838 1310) MGM ero (071-434 0031) Whiteleys

ONCE UPON A CRIME (PG). Vacuous comedy about Americans in Monte Carlo tumbing over a dachshund and a dead body. Starring John Candy, James Belushi, Sean Young, Richard Lawis, Cybril Shepherd; director, Europea I are. Eugene Levy Odeon West End (0426 915574).

THE PRINCE OF TIDES (15): New York psychiatrist helps tootball coach face family secrets. Romantic drams with riceus above its station, grandly acted by Nock Norte Barbra Strelsand directs and co-stars, but fails to sing. Camden Parkway (071-257 7034) MGM Bakar Street (071-935 9772) MGM Chelsae (071-325 905) Noting Hill Concert (071-727 6705) Odoms: Kensington (0426 914886) Lelcester Square (0426 915883)

RAISE THE RED LANTERN (PG) NAISE I RE NEU LANT ERIN (N.): Zhang Yamou's austren, quelty dezzin drama of a concubine is struggles in Twenties China. With Cong L Chelsea (07-1-35) 3742/3743) Metro (071-437 0757) Renoir (071-837 8402).

THEATRE

Many a slip twixt page and stage

THE idea must have seemed a winner. Take a novel about a girl's experience of life at the Liverpool Playhouse in 1950, and turn it into a play for the same theatre. As a clincher, since the book's author, Beryl Bainbridge, has a daughter on the stage, cast the daughter, Rudi Davies, as the girl.

Yet the idea should have been resisted, or else the adaptation entrusted to someone who could bear to be ruthless with treasured dialogue and re-imagine the story in theatrical form. Bainbridge's dramatisation of her novel does not hold the stage.

The novel is a most subtle account of emotional numbness, where the nature of Stella's troubled infancy emerges in fragments, disclosed to different people, and the relevation of her parentage connects odd details placed earlier with the cunning of a vintage crime writer. The pain at the book's heart feels the stronger for the dry tone of the writing, this dryness being one of the book's successes. For while Stella is a sharp-eyed, unsenti-mental teenager, she is still naïve. Her creator knows more than she does, and this gives the tragedy its comedy.

Stella has not yet broken the code of adult life, so that when the monocled director she adores is driven to confess that he is not for her, she supposes he means his age or religion. It is in a ludicrous attempt to spur this man's jealousy that she loses her virginity to P.L.O'Hara, the

COMPARED with what was happening last year, the Rossini bicente-nary celebrations look desultory. But they had a good jolt forwards on Sunday when the Chelsea Opera Group revived Le Siège de Corinthe, the first of Rossini's operas with a French libretto, and a piece of spaciousness and rousing momen-tum that was powerfully delivered under Howard Williams.`

Like the two next Paris operas, The Siege of Corinth was an adaptation by Rossini of one of his Italian pieces, Maometto II, with not much changed in the action except to heighten the heroism of the Greeks as they went under the Ottoman yoke: now that Greece was fighting to reverse the process, there was obviously good reason to pump up the patriotism. But really this story of self-sacrifice

in a doomed city could be taking place almost anywhere at any time, for there is not much local colour. "Divin prophète", the chorus sung in the camp of the invaders, is a suave slow triple-time piece with prominent cellos and harps, suggesting little knowledge of Islamic chant and indifference to the exotic. Rossini's energies go wholly into the abstracted dramatic situation, as into a mathematical formula: the girl who chooses An Awfully Big Adventure Liverpool Playhouse

glamorous actor engaged to play Captain Hook.

These rites of passage are interwoven with accident-strewn productions of Dangerous Corner and Peter Pan. for which she works (as Bainbridge did) as unpaid trainee assistant stage manager. But where the book camouflages crucial items amid the welter of theatrical chat or prosaic homelife, the stage version isolates and exposes them. Subtlety goes, like the Darling children, bang out of the window.

Compression of scenes brings another trouble. Except for two visits to Unde Vernon's basement, the action is set in an all-purpose room at the theatre and on its revolving stage. So Stella's seduction occurs in one of the Darling nursery beds - which may be psychologically true but is logistically insane.
Davies, in her ill-fitting dungarees,

manages some of the girl's gaucheness, and Tim Woodward O'Hara's charm, although we should have been given at least a glimpse of him vearing Hook's treacty ringlets. Ian Kellgren's direction is slack and Bainbridge, said to have been initially reluctant to adapt her book, should have trusted her instincts. I am sure

JEREMY KINGSTON



Struggling towards adulthood: Rudi Davies as the gauche Stella

Heroic Rossini

Le Siège de Corinthe Queen Elizabeth Hall

La Patrie rather than the Mohammedan prince she loves, the young officer who rarely stops singing about the glory of Greece (getting the girl in this opera is an incidental), the priest and governor who keep the populace sighted on magnificent death.

This is very much a male opera, especially in the revised version, where the young hero is sung by a tenor rather than a mezzo. Happily. Justin Lavender was on hand to take this taxing role, and to rise in the third act to an astonishing feat of stamina and control in his long solo. In lines of cultured, nuanced tone, thrillingly lit by beautifully placed interjections of head voice for the pinnacles, he produced a fine display of Rossini style: the kind of breathstopping occasion when a singer_ knows he has caught the moment,

that he has the ball and can run with

Geoffrey Shovelton, as the father of his city, aptly and gravely pronounced as a different sort of tenor, more burdened by life but rising to an excellent declamatory prowess. Neil Howlett as the sultan Mahomet sang surely after initial problems, but the part is grey the Greeks have all the vocal splendours.

Eileen Hulse brought an appealing lightness and dexterity to all the twiddles of the heroine's part, but the voice is not large and rarely seemed to be moving with the necessary pride and conviction. Louise Crane as her confidante was singing with superb creamy authority; one wished she was there to do much more than take a line in the ensembles. Also enlivening was the buoyant, forthright singing of the chorus, and the pleasure-filled playing of the orchestra. Le Siège de Corinthe has a lot of its strengths in the accompaniment in the solemn

prelude to the last act, with oboe solo, for instance. All these were grandly 5

What remains uncertain is how one should take it. The wheeling cycles of ostinato, the great crescendos and the hiccoughings of characters who keep appearing all evoke the big finales of Rossini's comedies. But did they smile at the Paris Opera in 1826 as defiance was thrust at the Turks and Corinth went down in flames?

The nearness of comedy and solemnity, as close as two rival ways of interpreting an optical illusion, was also suggested last weekend by Vocem's performance of Judith Weir's Scipio's Dream in the Purcell Room, for the piece is a revamping of a pretty little early Mozart masque into a sit-com episode. It was written for television but it worked a trifle better on stage, partly thanks to the comic simplicity of Gwion Thomas in the title role. Another excellent performer, Max Burrows, stood out as Puck in Vic Hoyland's In Pursuit of a Dream. which disappointingly turned out to be little more than a performance of the play without the rude mechanicals. Solemnity here without much comedy.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

Double dose of noise without heat and Sacrifice", producing a sepul-

Red Hot Chili Peppers **Brixton Academy**

A BAND whose talent for oafish, selfpromotional stunts has long been more readily apparent than its musical achievements, the Los Angeles Red Hot Chili Peppers were nevertheless key players in forging the unholy alliance between funk, rap and heavy metal which is rapidly becoming a stable variant of rock in the Nineties. The group's George Clinton-produced 1985 debut, Freaky Styley, may have been a confused mixture of malformed ideas, but its influence on later acts such as Living Colour and

Faith No More has been undeniable. Having weathered a succession of personnel changes, not to mention the squalid death of guitarist Hillel Slovak in 1988, the Peppers finally made their definitive recorded state ment last year. Blood Sugar Sex Magik was an album of surpassing invention and wit. A shame, then, that they were

unable to marshal the same degree of excitement and sense of purpose on stage, notwithstanding the muscular bravado and high level of energy in their performance. There was some mildly delinquent behaviour - one brief genital exposure by the troll-like

bassist. Flea. and a steady incidence of "muthafusticating"-style lyrics —
and one could imagine how they had managed to get themselves thrown off Top Of The Pops only the day before.

But although the four bare-chested, heavily tattooed musicians churned erinding funk riffs of "Such My Kiss" and "Give It Away" with faithful attention to detail, the show as a whole lacked focus and any real bite. The weak link was, vocalist Anthony Kiedis, whose limited powers of projection were compounded by his inability to carry a tune. This did not matter when he was rapping or doing handstands, but the ballad "! Could Have Lied" suffered badly, and exposed a lack of genuine personality beyond the generic spoilt brat image. The current single, "Under The Bridge", with its untypically delicate melody and rousing harmony chorus.

was not attempted. The most noticeable feature of the performance was that the Peppers only ignited on the two occasions that they tackled other people's material, namely Stevie Wonder's "Higher Ground" and Jimi Hendrix's "Crosstown Traffic". In a live context the group's own songs simply did not cut through with anything like the same degree of vitality.

DAVID SINCLAIR

of 24hrs (big (ee) 071.379 4444/497 9977/793 1000 Oroup 5ales 071 930 6123 Groups 071 494 1671 OHE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR MUSICAL

Town & Country

AUDIENCES at rock shows are not on the same wavelength as they used to be. Either they are looking for an outlandish spectacle capable of stimulating the most jaded palate or else it seems they just want to immerse themselves in communal, hypnotic gloom. Swans cater for the latter category.

Convened in New York a decade ago, the group began as hardcore/industrial noise terrorists, but by the late Eighties had evolved into a sub-Gothic band, producing eerie mood music tinged with raga-flavoured touches of psychedelia.

Led as ever by the sage-like figure of Michael Gira, a kind of Iggy Pop on Mogadon, the band which boarded the stage at the Town & Country looked like a refuge for retired guitarists from Jefferson Airplane. After a lengthy one-chord preamble - everyone strumming furiously over a pseudo-military snare tattoo - the keyboard player Jarboe, dressed in hippie couture, sang her way gingerly through a verse or so, before giving way to the swelling current of noise. Gira took the microphone himself during the second number, "Power

above a galloping tom tom motif and a hass guitar riff so thunderous that it threatened to inflict structural damage on the venue. These long, mordant, repetitive routines exercised a strange fascina-

chral drawl which meandered fitfully-

tion while generating, it must be said, no small amount of boredom. Like Beckett's plays or Sartre's prose, the effect was redolent in certain respects of watching paint dry.

Which is not to deny the artistic merits of either the music or the band's unusual technique. The drum-mer Vinny Signorelli played with outstanding elan, often providing the only source of dynamic variation as the guitarists lovingly burnished their cyclical four-bar sequences to perfection. Whatever they were getting paid, Vinny should have got double.

The audience responded with little discernible enthusiasm. Certainly there were one or two faster, stringstrafing numbers towards the end, but more typical was Gira's vaudevillian rendition of "Failure", a song so utterly moribund as to enter the realms of parody, if not outright comedy: "I'm the fuel that fires the engines of failure" he deadpanned to a sea of blank faces.

D. \$.

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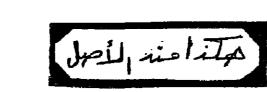
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Borrov plots bloom

ARTS 3

Borrowed plots are blooming

his week, novels by Mary Wesley topped the hardback and the paperback bestseller lists (A Dubious Legacy and The Camomile Lawn. respectively), just after the first part of Channel 4's dramatisation of The Camomile Lawn reached the second-highest ratings ever for a single episode of a drama. Last Sunday saw the last of Granada's Maigret stories starring Michael Gambon. Their screening caused six out-of-print novels by Georges Simenon to be republished with Gambon on the kets. And on Monday on Channel 4 the series touted as a successorto Twin Peaks began: Northern Exposure. The book of Alaskan whimsy written from the series, Letters From Cicely, was bought by the publisher Mandarin last November for £45,000 on the basis of a synopsis alone.

Such is the power of television to cell books. But who influences which books reach the screen? Do publishers put pressure on producers? Or do the two industries feed off each other? Can television also gain from publishing? One television producer has commented that the relationship is a one-way street, that the advantage of dramatising books is all to the publisher, in terms of increased sales. Another believes that dramatisations are problematic in ways that straight screenplays are not, partly because everyone wants an adaptation to reproduce their

own mental image of the book.

A third, however, says the profit is mutual. Books are great raw materials because so much of the creative spade work is already done, and their established success adds marketability to drama projects. He works hard to ensure that transmission dates coincide with publication dates, but that is often impossible to guarantee: "on the whole television stations don't care about pleasing publishers."

Publishers, on the other hand, move with uncharacteristic speed to put "tie-in" covers on books adapted for television. These sell in boosted numbers not only because of the screen publicity, but also because the prospect encourages booksellers to stock them. One publisher, Headline, recently got wind on a Monday of stories on which a ten-part Yorkshire Television series, to be networked from April, is based. The books were bought on the Wednes-

heat

Nicholas Rhea will be approximat

With similar enthusiasus, the publisher Transworld has spent 443,000 per book on paperback rights in three R.D. Wingfield nov-els featuring Inspector Frost Erost is to be played on television by David-Jason, star of The Darling Buds of May, which was watched by 20 million people. Transworld should perhaps be warned, however. Although The Darling Buds prompted the sales of five H.E. Bates novels (which were until then "slow but steady") to rise to a total of 120,000 copies, the two million viewers of Twin Peaks, by contrast, bought 200,000 copies of the spin-off The Secret Didry of Laura Palmer. In other words, Twin Peaks aficionados are 20 times as likely as Darling Buds fans to buy books. For some viewers, all the literature they know is what they see on the box.

Nor is a television tie in always a safe bet. In 1987 Penguin printed 80,000 copies of a novelisation from the series The Bretts. 60,000 copies came back unsold from the bookshops. Nevertheless, such failures are rare.

So are the publishers all lobbying for dramatisations? Hardly ever. One exception is a Penguin employ ee who is responsible for television and film tie-ins. Sue Berger regularly sends a fat mailing of likely books on the Penguin list to 400 producers on both sides of the Atlantic, an initiative unique among publishers. The producers are glad to make use of the service: "They will come to me and ask if I have, say, 'a female European detective'," says Berger. Impetus more often comes from

agents, since they are the ones who

generally handle screen rights for authors. Stephen Bourne, for instance, at the agency Curtis Brown
— whose clients include David Lodge, who wrote his own screenplay for Nice Work, and Nicolas Freeling, author of the Van der Valk books — will "actively pitch" producers with books he thinks are suitable either because of intrinsic quality or because they are by a very famous writer". Even ostensibly unsuitable novels can make it on to the screen if there is the seiling point of a big

This is one reason why books are such popular material for producers. Independent companies can sell an



Published novels provide the basis for more and more television: Nicolette Jones looks at the cosy world of adaptations

David Jason in H.E. Bates's The Darling Buds of May, as produced by Richard Bates

show, or the added kndos of proven popularity. Besides, as one producer put it, when you adapt a book "a lot of the imaginative work has been

However, the choice of books is most often dictated by producers' own random enthusiams. The Camomile Lawn, for instance, was made because Sophie Balhetchet of the independent company Zed Ltd has nursed a passion for the book. "We producers just go into bookshops and buy books like anyone else,"

roduction companies often buy "character rights" rather than particular books -especially since, as happened with Colin Dexter's Inspector Morse, the adventures can take off beyond the books. Some seek out a character for a particular actor. Excelsior Productions, for instance, before they found Inspector Frost for Booker-shortlisted novel Utz was David Jason.

On occasion, it is an actor's conviction that wins the day. That happened with an earlier Mary Wesley, Jumping The Queue, which Sheila Hancock fell in love with, and with Anita Brookner's Hotel du Lac, in which Anna Massey wanted to play the lead. In the case of The Darling Buds of May there was a family connection. Television producer Richard Bates, of Excelsior, is the son of the author, H.E. Bates, With happy circularity, money from screen rights and royalnes from increased sales of H.E. Bates's books, boosted by the television, now go back to the Bates family company, Evansford, making Rich-

ard and siblings beneficiaries. Although the proportion of books that are televised is low, the proportion of television drama that originates from books is high. Take the produced by Friday. The purchase- easily if there is an existing story to and read a vast pile of criminalia film of the late Bruce Chatwin's Saturday) Mortimer writes up his and watch a whole library.

premiered. On Monday night there was the first episode of BBC 2's three-part adaptation of the Booker Prize-winning The Old Devils, whose author, Kingsley Amis, is enjoying a screen renaissance we have recently seen his The Green Man, Ending Up and Stanley and the Women. And last night ITV screened the latest episode of a

Men Behaving Badly.

On Friday comes the fourth part of Fay Weldon's Growing Rich. That was written simultaneously as a book and a television serial, as was Andrea Newman's A Sense of Guilt and John Mortimer's Paradise Postponed. Summer's Lease was adapted by Mortimer after the novel was written, as were Melvyn Bragg's
A Time to Dance and Malcolm Bradbury's adaptations of his own novels. In the case of Rumpole of the

screenplays as novels afterwards. The symbiosis between film and television, then, has given rise to the novelist/screenwriter. Even where the books are adapted by others, dramatisations may feed back into novels. P.D. James has admitted that she imagines actor Roy Marsden when she writes about her detective Adam Dalgliesh, and Ruth Rendell that George Baker's

Albert Finney (right) in The Green Man

Leo McKern as Rumpole of the Bailey

Anna Massey (left) in Hotel du Lac

sitcom based on Simon Nye's novel performance as Inspector Wexford is now in her mind when she writes Wexford tales: his interpretation has influenced the character. Rendell, writing as Barbara Vine, has a forthcoming adaptation, A Fatal Inversion, screened in May, as is Angus Wilson's Anglo Saxon Attitudes. Muriel Spark's Memento Mori is due at the end of this month. Further ahead, rights have been

bought in Julie Burchill's No Exit,

Maeve Haran's Having It All and

Barbara Trapido's Temples of De-

ARTS BRIEF

Lately delivered

A BATCH of fine art that should have been delivered to Poland in 1795 is finally arriving there this May for a short visit. Not, for once, a tale of art plunder shamefacedly returned after 200 years. This time the paintings, which include Poussin's Triumph of David, Rembrandt's Young Man and Watteau's Les Plaisirs du Bal, are going to Warsaw as part of a cultural exchange. They were bought in London on behalf of King Stanisław II in the early 1790s, but before they could be delivered (or paid for)

and Poland partitioned. They remained in England and were bequeathed to Dulwich College; Dulwich Picture Gallery was built primarily to house them. Thirty of them are being shown in Warsaw; in return, a Polish exhibition. Treasures of a Polish King". illustrating Stanislaw's p tronage at home, will open in Dulwich on May 13.

Well booked up

THE latest Dickens epic to reach the stage is Martin Chuzzlewit. Lynn Robertson Hay's new adaptation will be performed at the Royal Theatre, Northampton, from April 3 to 25. In the cast will be Aled Jones, erstwhile boy soprano, now juvenile lead.

Hockney set fair GLYNDEBOURNE Touring Opera will give a London season for the first time. The company will perform a month-long season at Sadler's Wells from September 24, replacing its annual Sussex season in Glyndebourne. By then, Glyndebourne's opera house will be demolished to make way for the new theatre. Most interest will probably lie in the 1975 John Cox staging of Stravinsky's Rake's Proress, with designs by David Hockney. Although the production has been seen around the world, this will be its first

Last chance . . .

FIRST time round. English National Opera just missed the flavour of Kurt Weill's tale of New York tenement life. Street Scene. The revival hits the work, half-musical and half-opera, dead centre, with an almost entirely new set of principals led by Lesley Garrett. The Act II jitterbug dance number proves that there is plenty of vitality among those denizens of the brownstones, especially with James Holmes conducting. The final perfor-

GALLERIES: MANCHESTER

Patchy but provocative in the best sense



Expressive example of Expressionism: Karl Schmidt-Rottluff's Girl from Kowno. 1918, is included in the exhibition "The Expressionist Face - Graphic Art in Germany 1905-1925" at Manchester City Art Gallery until May 4

The music of Kokoschka and the painting of Schoenberg are among the delights John Russell Taylor discovers in Manchester's celebration of the Expressionist movement

hy Expressionism?
And why in Manchester, for that matter? The answer to both questions, as so often, turns out to be the determination. obsession almost, of one person. David Fisk conceived the idea of an International Festival of Expressionism five years ago: he happened to be studying music in Manchester at the time, and so the combination seemed reasonable, if not

What is amazing is the variety and scope of the festival he has cooked up, and the number of cooperative galleries and musical or theatrical venues. The festival proper lasts only from February 29 to March 22, but most of the exhibitions involved did not even open until halfway through, and all run on considerably beyond the end. Fortunately, perhaps, the organisers disclaim all intention to give a comprehensive account of the Expressionist movement in the arts, let alone to get into wrangles about what belongs in the category. Most of what is actually visible is German or Austrian, and most dates implicitly, as The Expressionist Face at the City Art Gallery does explicitly, from between 1905 and 1925.

Best to prepare for patchy and provocative, for that is what is on offer. The faces in the City Art Gallery show are all depicted in one form of print or another. What might be confusing is saved by crisp and elegant layout from seem-ing so: a collection of selfportraits leads the neophyte gently in, indicating by its swift transitions from the realism of Kathe Kollwitz to the confident simplifications of Erich Heckel and the violent distortions of early Kokoschka that Expressionism is more of an emotional climate than one

clearly defined style. A show of one regret a little that when he Expressionist Prints by Ko-moved to Los Angeles he koschka at the Whitworth Art Gallery, which includes some of the same images, makes the same point succinctly in the development of one artist dur-

ing one phase of his career. Next door at the Whitworth is a fascinating show which makes another important point about Expressionism: Arnold Schoenberg: Paintings and Drawings serves as a vital reminder that part of the Expressionist ethos was the interchangeability of the senses, and so of the arts and all aesthetic experiences. Schoenberg was primarily a composer, even early on, but

The organisers do not claim the show is comprehensive'

he took his painting seriously enough to solicit portrait commissions. Kokoschica was a dramatist and a skilled musician as well as a painter. Most others in the movement at least dabbled in media other than their principal preoccupation.

True, Schoenberg always remained an amateur painter, and unfortunately many of his self-portraits are all too redolent of the Thought Forms of Charles Leadbeater and Madame Blavatsky. They are symptomatic of the boneiesswonder approach of Symbolists who felt that training in anatomy was less important than truth to fleeting visions.

However, one must admit that some of the other portraits are rather good, and the highly unflattering self-portrait (from behind) does make moved to Los Angeles he seems to have given up painting in favour of tennis.

The leap in time between these artists and A.R.Penck at the Cornerhouse, Amanda Faulkner at the City Art Gallery, or Faulkner, Lucy Jones and John Bellany at Castlefield Gallery will probably puzzle many visitors, though presumably a certain likemindedness, a readiness to look for a deeper truth by way of a superficial distortion, will be clear enough to offer some sort of bridge. However, one must go to one of the more outlying events, the show Vi-enna: Expressionist Tendencies since 1945 at Salford Museum and Art Gallery, to encounter at least implied

Though the title is correct, in that everything on show seems to have been painted after 1945, it does lead gently in with late works of artists such as Anton Kolig and Josef Dobrowsky, who were born in the 1880s and provided a direct link with the Ur-Expres sionists. Armed with this insight, one can see precisely how a certain mood, a certain attitude to the subject-matter of painting, persisted and developed. The show is confined to Austria, but what it says about Expressionism is of much wider validity.

● The Expressionist Face is at Manchester City Art Gallery (061-236 5244) until May 4. and Amanda Faulkner until April 5. Arnold Schoenberg and Oskar Kokoschka are at the Whitford Art Gallery (061-274 4865) until May 9 and April 25 respectively. • A.R.Penck and Malerci auf Papier are at the Cornerhouse (061-228 762)) until April 19. ● Vienna: Expressionist Ten-dencies since 1945 is at Salford Museum and Art Gallery (061-736 2649) until April 5.

TELEVISION REVIEW

No way to beat racial prejudice

ost people agree that the police that the ponce should recruit more Unfortunon-white officers. Unfortu-nately, those best placed to exert pressure — politicians, civil servants, newspapers, television - risk being accused of living in glass-houses and throwing stones. However tiny the percentage of black cop-pers is, it is rather higher than the percentage of black MPs, or black journalists in the

national media. The difference is that while politicians and journalists may have a strong indirect influ-ence on ordinary lives, police officers clearly have a strong direct influence. When there is racism in the police, ordinary people (particularly in the ethnic minorities) are the first to know. Conversely, when there is racism on the streets, a black policeman may be a prime target.

Three years ago, a Des-mond Wilcox television series followed seven non-white Metropolitan Police recruits through their training and first weeks on the beat. Last night's sequel, Black in Blue (BBC 1), brought the story up to date and then engaged the Metropolitan Police commissioner, Sir Peter Imbert, in

discussion. Statistics are wonderfully versatile tools. Sir Peter, pointing to the Met's new policy of targeting recruitment advertising at the ethnic communities, daimed a 25 per cent increase in black and Asian recruits since Wilcox's series was

that this meant non-white rather than 2 per cent of the

Nor was the anecdotal evi-

dence from the original seven encouraging. Two quit before the end of their probationary peared to have little to do with racism. A further officer, Julie, has also now gone. She claimed that she was largely confined to desk duties, and so missed her target figures for arrests. Was that because of her colour or her sex? "I had a lot of problems with certain people on my relief," she said. Another woman recruit told the story of being on the beat with a partner who said: "You

mustn't get offended if I call black people niggers." Strangely, she did. Moreover she felt that "the sexism was enormous: women weren't given any respect".

Anna - a black recruit who has stuck it out - acknowledged that racism exists in the police, and even that she was a victim. But she laughed it off as part of what the programme called the "sub-culture" of the Met. "If you're Irish you get teased for your accent. You either accept it as being in jest or get aggravated by it . . . that's when problems arise." Her attitude was: "it's just harmless fun". Not everybody on the streets of Brixton would put it that way.

> RICHARD MORRISON

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL SATURDAY 21 MARCH 7.30 pm LONDON BACH ORCHESTRA

NICHOLAS KRAEMER director 25th Birthday Concert

JS BACH Brandenburg 3, Suite 3, Cantata 197, Chorale Medley including "Jesu Joy". "Sleepers Wake" & "Ein Feste Burg" PATRIZIA KWELLA, JAMES BOWMAN, GEOFFREY DOLTON THE HOLST SINGERS • THE CAMDEN CHOIR

\$20, \$15, \$12, \$10, \$6 Box Office/CC 071-928 8900. Concert sponsored by Unisy

Back to the Russian front

hen the Royal Opera House needed someconnections to head the committee for its forthcoming gala. Welcome Back St Petersburg, in aid of the Mariensky Theatre - to be held on election night - it lit upon the tall, fair, ethereal figure of Sacha, Duchess of Abercorn, née Alexandra Anastasia Phillips. As a descendant of the Tsar Nicholas I, and Pushkin's great-great-great-granddaughter, she is the ideal figurehead — Old Russia aiding former Soviet state culture in search of Western funds.

The duchess has an air of quiet calm, which she deploys in her day job as a Jungian psychotherapist. She has fashioned a consulting room in the stables of her house in Northern Ireland, and sometimes retreats to its silence and isolation herself: there is enough in her own recent family history to inspire a Russian drama.

She was the favourite grandchild of Lady Zia Wernher, owner of racehorses, staple of the society columns, friend of the Queen. The family millions came from the diamond mines of Sir Julius Wernher, famous for philanthropy and his art collection; the Russian countess Zia, who married his son. brought connections with all the royal Houses of Europe, including Prince Felix Yusupov, who murdered Rasputin-

"I found Zia intriguing. She was quite different from anyone else," the duchess says of her imperious grandmother.

"She never lost her Russian accent, and had a fascination with her ancestry. She would tell me all about the wide network of Romanoff connections, and about her grandfather Pushkin, so it was like a drip feed of Russian culture. We

had a great affinity."

Of the four Phillips grand-daughters, two became duchesses: Sacha's sister Tally (Natalia) married Gerald Grosvenor. Duke of Westminster. Fiona married a Scottish laird, Marita married the dashing sportsman Randall Crawley, tragically killed with his brother in an air crash in 1988.

They all lead philanthropic working lives, and each is a mother of three: but they have all had to mourn the loss of their only brother Nicky, just a year ago. He was found in the garage at the Wernhers' house, Luton Hoo, with the car engine running. He was 43. The verdict was accident: but his death remains a mystery.
"We were extremely close," the

duchess says. "But one of the tragedies of life is when people don't allow their feelings any channel or outlet, and hold on tight to everything. He held on to every happy thing and every sad thing. He was absolutely stoic."

Valerie Grove

meets an English duchess with a

mission to help St Petersburg theatre

She feels more passionately than ever that it is vital to encourage children to write: hence her creation of a Pushkin Prize, which she runs for children writing north and south of the Irish border. The competition has been going for five years and past judges include Roald Dahl. Seamus Heaney and

Ted Hughes. "This year, I want the children to write about their feelings. It's so interesting that the Catholic tradition finds it much easier to express itself; the Protestants are more blocked, defensive. they don't have a voice.' Life in Northern Ireland, she

says, causes a gradual corrosion of energy that can very easily slip into depression. A schoolteacher friend, who had UDR connections, was shot through the shoul-

Pushkin produced a masterpiece in every literary form. His output was massive'

THE DUCHESS OF ABERCORN

der the other day when his car was ambushed. "A good man, derailed by this pointless violence. It builds up such tension; you put up barricades around yourself, to protect your feelings."

In her psychotherapy, the duchess deals with people in a state of crisis, or at some personal cross-roads: they have a deep unease, which she encourages them to think of as a physical object like a rock or stone, which has a colour and shape. She also applies her own meditation energising techniques to herself. "Since my brother died I realise that to look after myself is so much harder than other people. I feel I didn't see what was coming, and could have done something."

In 1987 the Phillips family, including brother Nicky, invited Pushkin scholars, Old Russians and communists from all over the world to a Pushkin weekend at Luton Hoo to commemorate the 130th anniversary of Pushkin's

Ever since then. Sacha and her sister Marita have been studying Pushkin, learning Russian, going back and forth to Russia and reviving the family links. The chapel at Luton Hoo has been rededicated to the Russian Orthodox church. Sacha founded her Pushkin Prize, and Marita began

writing a play about the extraordinary life, marriage and death of Russia's literary genius. "Pushkin produced a masterpiece in every literary form. His output was massive, his energy prodigious," the duchess says. He was also a gambler, drinker and womaniser, who died in a duel over his coquettish wife, Natalia. "He was only 36. He was impulsive, charming, lively, loved every

moment of his existence. "His real inspiration was the fairy stories told to him by his old nanny Annie Rodionova; he spent all his time with her because his parents totally ignored him." Though educated in French, he wrote in Russian and gave the Russians a sense of their ownliterary identity that they had never had before: the equivalent of Oante in Italy and Shakespeare in

Now that the duchess has redis-covered her Russian background, she has visited the Mariensky Theatre, home of the Kirov. Going through St Petersburg is just like coming into a fairy story

you know very well, she says. "But the conditions at the theatre are so awful. The dancers literally don't have enough to eat to dance on." Her own coming out ball, in 1964, was a throwback to imperial Russia, an event of fin-de-siècle magnificence hosted by her

grandmother at Luton Hoo. The Royal family came and dined off the Russian Imperial plate, and 800 guests danced to Joe Loss until 6am. (Her grandmother declared that the whole point of the event was to get Sacha married off, but her future husband James Hamilton, later Duke of Abercorn, failed to attend — "so that's £14,000 thrown away," remarked her father - and they did not meet until the following year.) The event at Covent Garden on

April 9 will be glittering. The Princess of Wales will be there. The Kirov Ballet is arriving from Palermo, the orchestra and chorus from St Petersburg, and they hope to raise at least £50,000 for the Mariensky Theatre, with a programme embracing Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninov, Prokofiev, Rimsky-Korsakov — and including, of course, extracts from Boris Godunov, Eugene Onegin and The Queen of Spades, all based on the poems and novels of the duchess's beloved Pushkin, so the family



The Duchess of Abercom: "Pushkin's real inspiration was the fairy stories told by his old nanny"

AND BRIEFLY.

A sweet tasting

from blu seein

WHAT causes chocolate to "bloom" that is, turn grey and look unappetising? It blooms either because it has been kept too hot (the cocoa butter crystals become unstable and rise to the surface. making the texture gritty), or because it has been stored in damp conditions (the sugar crystals attract the water molecules and migrate to the surface where they re-crystallise). These, and other facts about chocolate are distributtacts about chocolate are distributed regularly to members of The Chocolate Society, who next Thursday will be tasting "at least 15 types of bon-bons and some chocolate pastry, as well as the famous Maison du Chocolat hot chocolate — all brought directly chocolate — all brought directly from Paris", at the Westminster College restaurant in St Vincent Square, London SW1. Tickets are £13.50 each. Further details of the society and its lists of mail order chocolate goodies from The Chocolate Society (0943 851101).

Safety net

IN THE wake of the abductions of women estate agents Suzy Lamplugh and Stephanie Slater, Texas Homecare has devised safe-ty guidelines for all its female furniture consultants who have to visit customers at their homes. These include logging their whereabouts in a book, calling in on arrival at and departure from an appointment — and issuing them with a shrill alarm and a torch.

V&A setting

THERE are few museum exhibitions where you can take the exhibits away, but vintage costume jewellery pieces such as those in the "Jewels of Fantasy" which opens at the Victoria & Albert Museum today will be on sale in

the museum shop for the duration of the show (until July 5). Pieces from the private collec-tion of Fior, the Knightsbridgebased costume jeweller, as well as vintage collars, bracelets, brooches and ear-rings by Hattie Carnegie, Christian Dior and Elsa Schiapa-relli are on sale together with contemporary copies and current collections from Swarovski, the exhibition's sponsor, and Cobra & Bellamy. For those fired to collect costume jewellery, Christie's is holding a "designer costume jewellery" sale on Wednesday, April 1 at 10.30am at its Kensington branch.

Vivienne Becker, the exhibi-tion's curator, will lead a study day on April 22 in the lecture theatre of the V&A from 11am-2pm, cost E30. Bookings can be made on 071-938 8407.

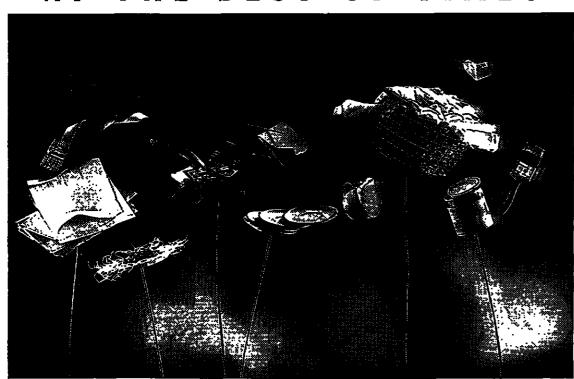
VICTORIA MCKEE

But it made me look like a



WOMEN HAVE A LOT ON THEIR PLATES

AT THE BEST OF TIMES





Juggling the ceaseless demands of family, home and job is a tricky balancing act most women are only too well aware of.

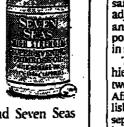
But, with a little natural assistance each day from the oil extracted from the seeds of the

Evening Primrose flower, more and more women feel themselves better able to maintain a healthy hormonal balance throughout their menstrual cycle.









Available in taste-free capsules as well as chewy fruit flavour Berries, you'll find Seven Seas

Evening Primrose Oil at Boots and all major chemists and health departments.

EVENING PRIMROSE OIL Take Good Carc of Yourself



Dea Birkett sailed back from Africa as a steersman in a boilersuit

forbidden land — male territory. I acquired a male name, male dress and lived entirely in male company. For three months I had ed access to a stran and alien masculine world. I was a member of crew on a British cargo vessel working

the West African route. I began one sticky after-noon, just before the rains broke on the West African coast, when I clambered up the MV Minos gangway in Apapa docks, Lagos, Nigeria adorned in my finest flowery sun-dress. I wanted to impress the Captain. The shore staff had warned me that a young woman joining the

ship would not be welcomed. I had been following the Victorian traveller Mary Kingsley through West Africa, and had wanted to return to Britain as she had - by sea. But this was a working vessel, carrying cocoa beans. salt and West African timber. not passengers. I had to sign on as a member of crew. Seaman Birkett was hastily added to the crew list. regarded my title as a mere formality. After months batding my way through West Africa, I looked forward to a safe, easy passage home in the familiar surroundings of

a British ship. But the Minos was the most extraordinary country I ever visited. If I had found West Africa strange, on board all the normal divisions of the day and week we take for granted disappeared. We sailed in our own time zone, adjusting our clocks by half an hour each day for the next port of call. We were seldom

in sync with any piece of land. The Minos had a clear hierarchy. The divisions between the British officers and African crew had been established for decades. They are in separate mess rooms, drank in separate bars, and retired to cabins on separate decks. But my own position was not so dear cut.

"Thought you were some sort of missionary for the blacks," said the Captain when I came on board, looking my slight frame up and down and clearly most concerned. "But I can see you're not - you're young." The prospect of my spending 3,500 miles on board did not enthrall him. But he did not have any choice, as the shipping line had already agreed

Rites of passage



Out west: Dea Birkett followed a Victorian traveller to sign me on. On his ship, everyone had a strictly defined role which was embossed upon their cabin door
— PURSER, MASTER, CHIEF OFFICER, BOAT-SWAIN, COOK, The Captain and his men needed to

find a place for me. "Steersman. First watch." announced the Captain at my first breakfast in the officers' mess. I did not even hold a car driving licence. And here was being asked to steer a 21,000-ton cargo vessel.

But my apprenticeship in practical seafaring skills was simple compared to a far more difficult education. I had to learn to be one of the boys. This was a world where no woman trod. This was how men dared to act when utterly free from the female gaze.

By day I was taught on the bridge how to steer this huge vessel, at night in the bar I was tutored in the ways of a seaman. For my first few days on board, the officers had censored their language. Then the bawdiness returned. I began to smoke furiously and drink double rums. Then one night, instead of the usual western, a different sort of film appeared on the video. Soon the last thing I remembered each night as I slipped into bed in my cabin, was the picture of a naked woman, legs akimbo, staring out from the video screen in the officers' saloon.

lready my faint-hearted feminist values were being turned topsy turvy. I felt it the greatest honour when the men swore outrageously at me and leered openly at the smutty films. Surely these were signs of my acceptance? But I wasn't being accept-

ed. I was being assimilated. The men could not live with a woman on board. So they transformed me into one of them, one of the boys. The Chief Steward, keeper of the slops chest, ushered me into his office one afternoon and presented me with a boilersuit, the seamen's working uniform. It had a 42in chest, the smallest he had.

boy. The African crew gave me my male name — Jella. In their language, it means small boy. At last the fact that I was female could be conveniently forgotten. No the boilersuited Jella.

But it wasn't only a mask for the convenience of men. I soon felt like the steersman Jella myself. When we docked at Douala, Cameroon, an invitation to go whoring seemed quite natural. Watch-ing the Chief Steward check the seamen for VD was as normal a daily occurrence as brushing my teeth. And when one evening I put on my flowery sun-dress, I felt as if I were in fancy dress.

Smug in my new masculine identity, I smoked drank, and steered on board, and danced to the heavy West African beat in the discos at our ports of call. Being a boy was such fun. I couldn't imagine a world with women

Then, just as we were docking in Ghana, the First Engineer rang up to my cabin. "There are seven air hostesses in the bar if you fancy a bit of female company." Their plane had been grounded at Accra, and they vere waiting for a new bit to be flown out. Bedecked in my boilersuit.

I swaggered into the saloon. slouched heavily in the seat with my legs sprawled apart, and pulled out a cigarette. I looked about at the air hostesses, heavily made up and in pretty party dresses, being eagerly entertained by the officers who were goading them to dance. They seemed to belong to a strange, foreign tribe called women, as distant from me as the Hausa or Yoruba of West Africa. "What's it like being among all these men?" one particularly lovely lady asked. It seemed a ridiculous question. It was these visions of feminity who made me feel uncomfortable.

The hostess persisted. What's it like among all these seamen?" I drew on my cigarette and exaggeratedly knocked back my beer. But one of my fellow seamen answered for me. "Oh, she's not a woman. She's Jella. She's one of us . . . '

Dea Birkett's Jella: A Woman at Sea (Gollancz, £14.99) is pub-

From true blue to seeing red

Alice Thomson meets a Conservative who is willing to stand against her party to support her imprisoned son

loyal, indefatigable women that only the Conservative party can conjure up. A self-defined "housewife", she owns her own family business. is a branch membership secretary for the West Oxfordshire Conservative Associ-ation in Douglas Hurd's constituency and a member of its executive council and women's committee.

She thrived under Margaret Thatcher and finds John Major sexy. "Until now I was an active and hardworking Conservative sup-porter," she says.

Now Mrs Brown has decided to do something which will be considered quite extraordinary by her col-leagues. On April 9 she is going to stand against Mr Hurd, the man for whom she has canvassed many times. Mr Hurd is generally talked about in awed tones by Tory women as being reliable. trustworthy and statesmanlike. His majority at the last election was 17,000. So why

is Mrs Brown opposing him? The answer is Nicholas, her son. He has been held in prison for 14 months on a drug charge in Goa, the former Portuguese enclave in India. Charged with possessing half an ounce of cannabis, he has told the authorities it was planted on him by the police. When Mrs Brown pressed Mr Hurd over her son's plight she said it was like "talking to a brick wall". She bears no personal grudge against Mr Hurd, but is livid at what she sees as the Foreign Office's indifference to the plight of British prisoners abroad.

Six weeks ago Mrs Brown read an article about the launch of Fair Trials Abroad, a hu-'I know rights

als for Britons

only get 🗭 abroad. Very shortly after she made contact with them they asked her to be their canvotes didate for the elecbut that tion. She says she is not just standing doesn't for her son, but for any British citizen matter wno faces criminal charges abroad.

Fair Trials Abroad was set up by Stephen Jakobi, the lawyer of Karyn Smith, the young girl impris-oned in Bangkok for heroin smuggling, and is supported by the human rights subcommittee of the European Parliament and relatives and friends of Britons imprisoned provide legal aid for those who cannot afford to seek legal advice. British government observers at trials abroad and independent evaluation of fairness of trials." Mr Jakobi says. He wants to see an acknowledgement that the rights of its citiziens abroad are important to the British gov-ernment of the day. The Liberal Democrats have given their support: the Labour and Conservatives parties have not endorsed them.
As a Conservative living in

the foreign secretary's constituency, and one of the few people with a relative in prison who feels physically and emotionally able to speak in public about her experi-ence. Mrs Brown is the ideal candidate for Fair Trials Abroad.

The day after she announced her intention to stand. I went to see her. An effusive blonde swathed in leggings and large sweater met me at the door of Mulberry Cottage where Mrs Brown lives with the man she describes as boyfriend, lover and business partner before deciding on "chap". She is divorced from Nicholas's father, William Brown, but he is supporting her candidature as her agent.

Nicholas Brown, 28, tall and lanky, used to work for the family heating company but gave it up to travel the world for two years and found himself falling in love with India. According to his mother he decided, on a whim, to motorbike north to south and stopped off at Goa to see friends for Christmas.

Riding his bike along a narrow track on December 21, 1990, he was suddenly

arilyn Brown hauled into a police van with saying, get the Foreign Office appears to be another young man, his to after their attitude and to mother says. The young man put human rights and British apparently admitted to have people at the top of the tigable women ing 15g of cannabis but agenda. asked to be taken to his home

Her friends are surprised but impressed by Mrs Brown's stance. The attitude

of the West Oxfordshire

Conservative Association re-

mains to be seen. They refuse

to comment on the case but have not taken away Mrs Brown's membership.

"Many didn't know about my son before this because I

used to find it difficult talking

about him without breaking down," she says. "But I hope they will understand. Most

caring people first ardent Conservatives

in order, he said, to get some money to pay the police off. After doing the deal, the police turned to Nicholas and produced 15g of cannabis out

of his back pocket.
"It was a plant." his mother says. "They had his wallet so he couldn't pay them off.
There is tremendous political pressure to stamp out drugs. Most police are easily paid off but occasionally they have to get someone."

According to Mrs Brown, Nicholas's lawyer, Peter D'Souza, a Goan, has spoken out bravely on police corruplas's innocence. Her son is being kept in good condi-tions, but he may have to wait three years for his trial to end - and then the minimum sentence if found guilty is eight years.
The Foreign Office says

that it is not within the government's power to make the legal systems of foreign countries just like those in Britain. .It says that except in cases of manifest injustice. the government cannot intervene in the trials of prisoners abroad. This it says, is especially true where the country concerned has a reputable legal system, as in India.

Mr Hurd spelt out this view in a letter to The Daily Telegraph last week in response to a news story on Mrs Brown. "Political intervention on anything other than humanitarian grounds is likely to be counter-productive. We know how we in Britain would resent interference in our legal system by ministers from overseas. Brit-ish nationals who travel

abroad must remember that when in foreign countries they are

Mrs Brown reluctantly understands that the government can-not always become politically entangled but feels that they could be more involved on a personal level.

"I was given no

advice or support when my son was charged," she says. "I had no reply to my first letter. [The Foreign Office say their response was lost in the post.] I have been in touch with other families of British prisoners abroad and they all say the same thing. You are on your

On their own initiative she and her husband and her partner embarked on an appeal for clemency to the governor of Goa: they got 25 local signatories. On January 24 she wrote to Mr Hurd as her constituency MP and received a reply saying he would write in support but says she has heard nothing since. The Foreign Office say that Mr Hurd sent a letter of endorsement on March 12.

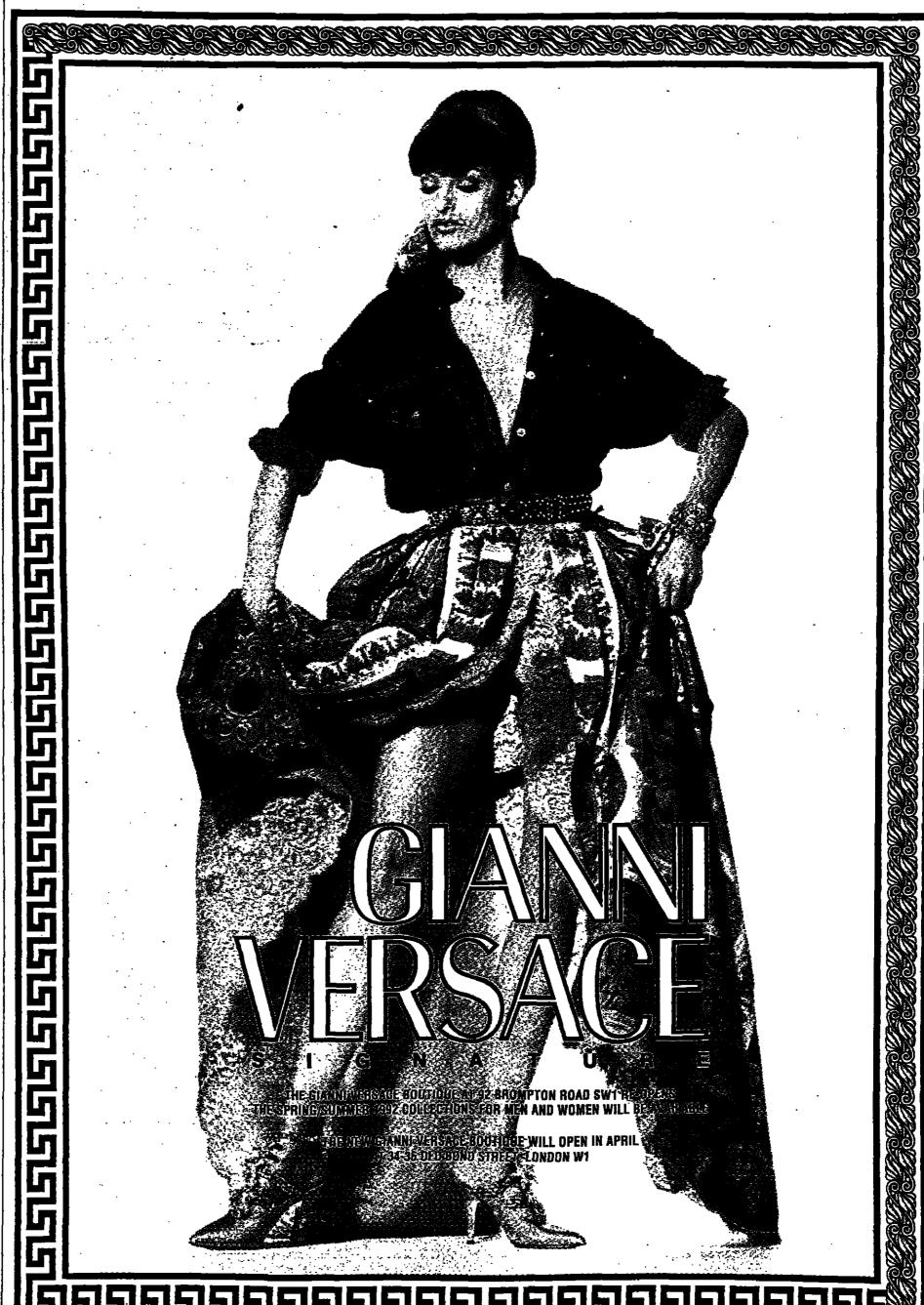
very couple of days Mrs Brown and her son exchange letters but he does not want her to go out to see him unless there is something she can do. Consuls from the British High Commission do see him every three months but Mrs Brown says, "they are always changing, they know little about his case and they don't seem to want to know any more". The Foreign Office believes consuls are making every effort and the service is improving. They add that they receive "endless" letters from Britons whom they have helped

Mrs Brown says she does not mind if she is being used as a publicity vehicle by Fair Trials Abroad to aid their campaign. The organisation put up her deposit and Mr Jakobi is her campaign adviser. On Saturday Mrs Brown will hold a meeting in her home for those who have expressed an interest and there will be an election leafler but no canvassing as they do not have enough staff.
"I know I may only get two

votes but that doesn't maiter," Mrs Brown says. "I want to put pressure on all the parties to listen to what we are



Ideal candidate: Marilyn Brown, a Tory, is furious at what she sees as Foreign Office indifference to the plight of British prisoners abroad



Mounting a giveaway

Jane Reed

waterbottles, floppy discs, CDs, dolls and classic novels? Harrods, perhaps? Your local newsagent is nearer and the loot is cheaper — if not free.

As the big spring magazine promotions get under way, the news-stands are groaning with giveaways, called covermounts in the trade. But a lot has changed since the famous onesock covermount. (Think about it: the great unsocked had to buy two copies).

Strong men fainting in the print halls as the fumes of broken shampoo covermounts wafted over them, when "printcity" Watford hung under an egg and lemon haze, are just

Covermounts today are seriously BIG. The waterbottle on the cover of last month's launch issue of Cycling Plus would cost £2.35 in the shops. So big was it that only one copy could be stacked on the shelf, the rest

were left to be tripped over on the floor. Kevin Cox. of Future Publishing. explains that it did the business for the title: "We reached our 40.000-plus target with this issue, which means that with our other title Mountain Biking UK we have two market lead-

But the newsagents are not smiling quite so broadly. While of course

welcoming anything that sells more copies, John Chapman, news buyer of W H Smith, feels such a large gift probably oversteps what is acceptable, and questions the level of circulation retention after big ifts. Are we selling water bottles or magazines?" he wonders. He recently had to reject a magazine wrapped around a can of dog food. Covermounts are not sure-fire

circulation builders. Says Peter Jackson, of Grayling Publishing, the guru on giveaways: "A gift - however good - on a poor magazine will be a massive waste of time and money." But if the gift is relevant and the magazine good, a covermount can put up to 25 per cent on to the circulation.

If the brand is strong enough though, is a covermount really necessary? Women's magazines that five years ago would have felt naked without a widget in the corner, are changing their tactics. "If you have a strong brand, putting the money you used to spend on widgets back into the title has to make better sense in the long run," Mr Chapman says. He admits, though, that a good lipstick can still put on 15 per cent in one hit. I seem to remember the

here do you one-stop shop for garden forks, abetes urine tester gave pretty good uplifts, too.

These days covermounts are more than clever sampling aids. Some titles are launched with the covermount as an integral part of the package.

No one launching a computer magazine would dream of not covermounting a floppy disc or computer game. The same goes for music. Classic CD has spawned a range of publishing imitations with either cassettes or CD compilations on the cover. Mr Cox again: "The record companies pay for the music. They want to introduce prospective buyers to Janáček, or a new recording of The Cunning Little Vixen.

Classic CD is priced to include the costs of cover mounting, and since the newsagent gets a percentage of the cover price, there are no complaints if the price is higher (at £3.25) than you would expect to pay for a conventional magazine. Also not complaining are the golf addicts. Phil Scarlett, of

John Menzies Retail, sees a summer golf ball STORY

covermounts. At £1.50, it is cheaper to buy several copies of Golf Monthly than it is to buy the balls.

The only problem is", says Mr Scarlett, "with 800-1,000 magazines competing for space in our mounted golf balls take up more than their share of shelf space."

In some areas the covermount is turning into the host vehicle. In your newsagent this week you will see an A3, elegantly bound hardback of one of Charlotte Bronte's classics - surely worth upwards of £12 in a bookshop. In the polythene envelope with the book, is a magazine giving an excellent background to the novel. This Marshall Cavendish collection is all yours for £4.50

every fortnight for two years.
"This is really a book with a covermounted magazine." Mr Chapman says. The same goes for Fabbri Publishing's Vicky, a girls" "product" that gave away a full-size doll and one set of clothes with its first issue, the idea being that your seven-yearold goes on collecting the further packages of clothes on every issue. Launch issue hit an astonishing 300,000, but the retention level remains to be

Some pundits see the relentless march of the covermount as unstoppable, others as part of a cycle. Whatever the long-term prospects. I doubt any will beat the famous National Lampoon cover that pictured a winsome puppy facing a revolver. "Buy this magazine or we shoot the dog" ran the coverline. They

The fat lady opens her lungs

Andrew Lycett on the brave battle by the team that

bought out the Birmingham Post

The kitsch statuette in Chris Oakley's office at-tests to his difficulties in pulling off Britain's biggest ever newspaper management buyout, the £125 million acquisition of the Birmingham Post and Mail group (BP&M) last November. Depicting a portly black diva, the bust carries the inscription. "The Fat Lady Finally Sang on 14 November 1991".

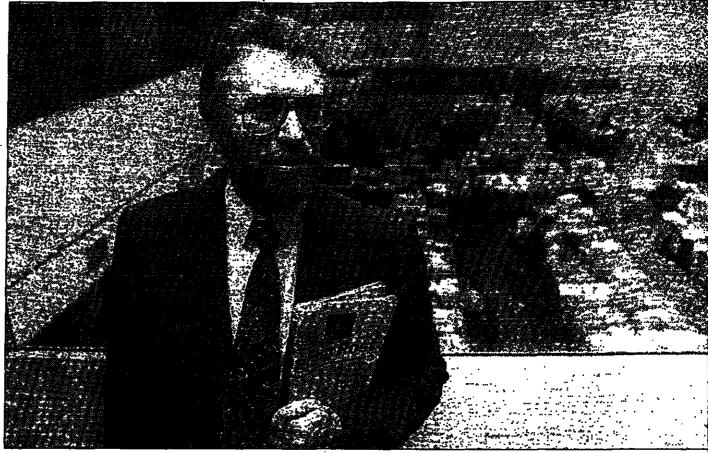
Through seven months of "hell", Mr Oakley, the Post's managing director and editor-in-chief, and five colleagues struggled to keep their bid together as the incum-bent publisher, the American Ralph Ingersoll, sought a German partner, then a rival management buyout offer emerged, and finally, established newspaper chains such as EMAP tried to nibble away at choice bits of the BP&M.

At one stage the group's flagship paper, the Birmingham Post, even announced the opposing buyout had succeeded. Mr Oakley's accountants reassured him that it was not over until the fat lady sang. One of his team, Terry Page, the Post's editor and now editorial director of the renamed Midland Independent Newspapers (MIN), says: "She may not have sung. but she was putting on her make up in the other team's dressing room."

For weeks after the deal, Mr Oakley kept silent as he addressed his new responsibilities as MIN's chief executive. An early decision difficult in the current property
 market — was to dispose of the group's plush London building. off the Strand. Bits and pieces from the sale, including a portrait of Charles II, are strewn outside Mr Oakley's new office, which he moved into last week. Now at last MIN is moving

forward. Today sees the launch of its first new title, Midlands TV Week, a stand-alone regional television listings magazine, which is expected to sell 30,000 copies at 10p. Later this week Mr Oakley hopes to announce the purchase of two more newspapers in the Mid-lands. These will sit alongside MIN's four main titles, the Birmingham Post, the Evening Mail, the Sunday Mercury and the Coventry Evening Telegraph. It also owns seven free newspapers, a London-based advertisement sales agency, and a Birmingham headquarters valued

The Post was the centre of a successful provincial newspaper business, the first to record a profit above £1 million in the 1960s. It subsequently lost its way but, at E80 million, was attractive to Mr Ingersoll, and he acquired the Yattendon Trust in 1987. Mr Ingersoil, who owned regional papers in the United States, invested a further £20 million in four Goss Visa colour presses (three for



Birmingham, one for Coventry) which can turn out 60,000 newspapers an hour, plus £5 million to cut the workforce by a third to

1.300 today. His first initiative was to try to purchase the Birmingham free newspaper, the *Daily News*, founded in 1984. In 1988 he offered Reed £17 million for it but the deal fell through, so Mr Ingersoll invested £7 million in building up the Focus group, his own stable of 39 free titles. The effect was to drag all frees in the city down. Now the Daily (Metro) News is weekly, and the Focus group has just four titles.

Meanwhile, the four paid-for dailies battled on. The soft-spoken, bearded Mr Oakley, who made his name as the Liverpool Echo's campaigning editor, was brought in as editor-in-chief and deputy managing director in 1989. He became managing director in April 1990. Under his aegis, the

Typical Saturday (all Individuals)

T. COLLEGE WAS

VIEWING PATTERNS

SATURDAY MARCH 7

Evening Mail has stabilised sales around 220,000, after a decade of losses. The Sunday Mercury con-solidated its position as the bestselling Sunday paper outside London. The Coventry Evening Telegraph claims the highest household penetration of any evening newspaper in the country (70 per cent).

But the Birmingham Post has floundered. It moved from authoritative broadsheet to tabloid in 1984, and back to broadsheet again in March 1991. The changes have only resulted in a schizoid mix of middle-market features in portentous broadsheet trappings. Sales today are under 28,000, at the bottom end of what a regional daily can bear.

Now he has overall control, Mr Oakley dismisses suggestions that the title will be closed. This month the Post began a £750,000 canvassing and sampling campaign. This allows readers to sample the

VIEWERS' FLIGHT TO TV HEAVEN

Chris Oakley: 'After all the ups and downs, we're trying to project a steady course. I'm a great believer in doing what you do well' paper in their homes for up to two months, in an effort to break them from national newspaper habits. Since the move back to broadthis week

sheet, the average age of Post readers is beginning to drop from 45, without losing its influential business constituency. Mr Oakley claims advertising revenue is up, as it is for the other paid-for titles. Mr Page, formerly editor of the Evening Argus in Brighton, says the Post could do with more

sections. He envisages a new sports supplement and adds, "We're looking heavily at Saturdays. We already do a weekend section, but need it bigger and The other three paid-for papers

look after themselves. The new management has introduced a few innovations, such as daily supplements for the Evening Mail. The jury is still out on its attempt to expand the Coventry Evening Telegraph into neighbouring

ON LAST week's Media page Allan McKeown criticised broadcasters' reluctance to allow

repeats of successful TV series, calling their

attitude "as outdated as stopping films from being shown on video and as ridiculous as Ford

insisting that nobody can buy a second-hand car". Channel 4's Saturday-night series TV Heaven has shown the popularity of re-runs of old favourites such as Upstairs Downstairs and

Edward and Mrs Simpson. The chart (left)

indicates that it is the more upmarket viewers

who are attracted to these classics: on March 7

more ABC1 adults watched a showing of

Upstairs Downstairs than the expensive original offerings on BBC! (Moon & Son) and ITV (The Other Side of Paradise), or the Jack Nicholson film Prizz's Honor on BBC 2. That

night Channel 4 also showed an episode from Six Nights With Barker starring Ronnie Barker and the pilot for The Persuaders series with

Roger Moore and Tony Curtis. Channel 4's

screening of such ancient favourites has more than doubled its normal audience.

Nuneaton. This initiative may be scuppered by the launch of the T new Evening News in Nuneaton

vot gui

And Mr Oakley does not even mention the biggest danger on his horizon: the move by Birmingham's Labour-controlled council to publish its own fortnightly paper, taking £650.000 of recruitment advertising.

Despite this hostile act, MIN is

one of six firms pitching to print the new title. Birmingham City Council will make up its mind on Friday for a May 12 start-up.
This underlines a current weak-

ness (but potential strength): MIN's spare capacity. Currently it does some contract printing, mainly for Thomson, but Mr Oakley wants his presses working 24 hours a day.

Additional outlays since the

uyout include £250,000 for a new colour printing process. Mr Oakley says, "It is common after buyouts to be short of cash. The way we've structured this deal is that we have surplus funds and can make acquisitions. Nevertheless, with £65 million of

debt, the new team cannot afford mistakes. This explains Mr Oakley's emphasis on the continuity of nagement, which includes John Whitehouse, the former Warwickshire cricketer who is MIN's financial director.

"After all the ups and downs of the last few years, we're trying to roject a steady course," Mr Oakley says. If everything goes right, he foresees a flotation of MIN, chaired by Sir Norman Fowler, towards the end of 1994.

There will be further acquisitions, but Mr Oakley abjures diversification into other media fields. "The strength of this management is that it is highly skilled in newspapers," he says. "I'm a great believer in doing what you

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reinforce Analysis' ability to attract the best contributors. You're an effective team leader, able to draw out and develop a topical and original agenda for the programme and to manage its budget and

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Not guilty of duping the voters

Tony Hall defends the BBC against the charge that it has misled the electorate

ast summer, I stood trial. Together with a colleague from ITN I was in the dock at the Edinburgh TV Festival. The charge: that during the 1987 election, the BBC colluded with the political parties to mislead the British public. The evidence: we ran photo-opportunities on our news programmes. The case for the defence

MAR

There's no doubt that some photo-opportunities stick in the mind. Mrs Thatcher cuddling a calf is a case in point. The dozen pirouetting mechanical diggers paying obeisance to her whilst the band played Flight of the Bumble Bee is another. Likewise, the image of her wandering off alone into a forlorn industrial wasteland the North-East, or Neil Kinnock stumbling on a beach during a photocall at conference time. Then there are the ones you can't quite remember, but which generally involve people wearing hard hats and looking tough, or wearing floppy hats and staring

into vats of dough. Part of our job is to describe the campaign as it is being fought by the political parties. But once recorded, the pictures form just another part of the vast pool of daily news material that we sift, edit, script or throw away according to normal editorial iudgements.

Those decisions aren't easy. They depend on the particular circumstance, and should always be made with a degree of healthy scepticism. In the end, any assertion that photo-ops win votes is an untested one, and an increasingly sophisticated electorate probably sees them for what they are.

A similar debate surrounds the use of "sound bites" which, for the uninitiated are those short extracts from political speeches that are a mainstay of political reporting. Should we be using them and, if we do so, are we being manipulated by the party propaganda

A recent study in the United States throws an uncomfortable light on the subject. Its authors say 1968, a candidate spoke on average for 43 seconds without interruption. By 1988, the average was only nine seconds. The Herald Tribune concluded: "If that decline continued at a linear rate, the average sound bite in 1992 would be two seconds long, perhaps something along the lines of 'me

president, you voter'." The supposed rationale behind this is that the public's attention span is shrinking, so the shorter the quotation the better. This trend across the Atlantic must be resisted here. The audience of basis upon which to make its decision. That's why our correspondents and editors don't simply take the sound bite proffered by the parties. They scan speeches, press conferences and interviews for the extract which is most appropriate for the telling of the story. The decision lies with them and their good judgement.

One question above all sorts out the veteran campaign theologians from the novices at election time: who sets the agenda, the parties or

In the end I don't believe anyone does. Throughout the campaign, each party tries to determine the course the day will take. Each party has the same mission: to highlight its strengths, expose its opponents' weaknesses, and divert attention when the going gets rough. Each morning news conference takes its theme accordingly and, for the most part, those themes will differ from party to party. Then the parties use their planned, or hastily re-arranged, events of the day to try to reassert their "control of the agenda". The evening speeches aim to dominate the main broadcast news, and the

hat is the theory, but in practice, the best-laid plans go awry. For a start, the parties have to respond to each other, and to the questions of journalists either sceptical or interested in matters in addition to the declared "theme of the day". They also have to respond to events beyond their control in the world outside. It all adds up to an agenda that is tugged at and tossed around hour by hour. No one controls this agenda, although many seek to.

Our job, in the BBC, is to ensure that no one party controls the agenda; that all are given due weight, and that different shades of opinion are treated fairly. We aim to ensure that over the course of the campaign we look in detail at the major policy choices facing the electorate. That means testing rigorously the issues, policies and sometimes the people that the parties would prefer us to avoid, as well as those they want us to

This, of course, can lead to arguments, sometimes quite heated. One of the most predictable. causes of such friction often centres on the casting of live studio debates. The skills required of producers attempting to set up a three or four-way discussion at election time can be similar to those of a James Baker trying to stage the Middle East peace talks.

First you decide the cast you want. Then the diplomacy begins; who should be contacted first?



Tony Hall: The BBC's job is to ensure that no party controls the agenda and that different shades of opinion are treated fairly What happens if someone says no? The invitation is, of course, ours, and, as the small print says on a car-park ticket, is not transferable

without our agreement. For the most part, this process is concluded successfully. But just occasionally, maybe at sensitive times during a campaign, or on especially sensitive subjects, a party will try to prevent a discussion taking place at all. It is in those circumstances that we, the broadcasters, reserve the right to use the "empty chair", if we think a party's refusal to take part is genuinely designed to stille legitimate

There's been a lot of public comment about another area of conflict: the pressure applied to programme producers by the party machines. Sometimes these telephone callers seek to influence the agenda, sometimes the position of a story in the running order, sometimes to make a complaint of unfair or inaccurate treatment. A number of wellintentioned people have suggested we should refuse to put these calls through to busy newsrooms or programmes, and handle them

It is proper that journalists listen to a legitimate range of opinions and views from as broad a crosssection as possible. They should not be cut off from a world they are seeking to report with fairness and accuracy. On the other hand, pressure at the wrong time, or in the wrong manner, may, hard up against a deadline, prevent producers fulfilling their proper duty to get a programme on the air. That is why we are monitoring all political calls, and advising all our editors and producers to refer them to their managers when and

ntrally instead.

if they feel it necessary. I have seen it argued that broadcasters hang up their editorial spurs at election time. Almost our only journalistic judgment, it is maintained, is to make sure each party gets an equal share of airtime which, in unexplained

craven manner, we extend for the thought and judgment. Our job is benefit of the politicians and to the detriment of our viewers and

listeners. I find this a meretricious proposition. No one pretends that party advantage can be gauged solely in minutes and seconds; a debade on television, however long or short, can do electoral damage as surely as triumph brings approbation. But the stopwatch does provide one of a number of tests by which we can judge whether we are treating the parties fairly. There is no suspension of nor-

mal journalistic judgment involved in this. We maintain our editorial values and aims: to report the campaign fully and to ensure that all the issues are brought clearly and fairly before the voters. As at all other times, we must explore with rigour the policies that will determine the nation's

There is one constant fundamental value that must imbue our to get the truth across to our wers and listeners.

In normal times that can be a challenging task, but it is even more difficult during a campaign. Every political party will seek to interpret proper independent, editorial decision-making for their own ends. It sometimes appears as if they believe they will benefit if the broadcast media are enveloped in a fog of claim and counterclaim about bias and pressure.

That makes the clarity of our purpose even more necessary; to be, in the midst of the campaign, the still voice of calm and reason, independent of all for the good of

A footnote on the trial: I am happy to report that the jury, some two hundred strong, rejected by an overwhelming majority the charge that we had misled the British

• The author is the BBC's director

potential voters deserves a better iournalism: independence of And now, a word from our manipulator

Rob Shepherd looks at the pressures on

television news

UND

vertising si

NE COMPOSE

he time has come to issue an election health warning to all television viewers. Watching television news coverage of the campaign can seriously damage your ability to exercise your democratic rights.

Is this too alarmist? After all, most voters rely on television news tor information during elections, and compared with the facile fare dished out by most of the Press, television news appears as a shining beacon of impartiality and trustworthiness. But, as tonight's Dispatches on Channel 4 Four highlights, the fact that television news is so trusted makes any manipulation of its coverage by politicians all the more sinister.

The perpetual brow-beating of broadcasters by the parties is bad enough. Even if programme editors reject specific complaints, they know, and their reporters know, that their every move is being watched by the party monitors. Under the frenetic pressures of an election, the temptation is always there for television news editors to avoid a row, to tone down their coverage, to ensure that their running order of stories gives the party that missed out last time the lead story next time.

Cases of politicians leaning on the BBC or on ITN are well documented. But the most effective manipulation of television news by party manipulators is more insidious. It is a process that has gathered pace since the mid-1470s, when the inexperienced Margaret Thatcher first began custing round the world for the

ecret to winning elections. Mrs Tharcher lighted on Australia, where Malcolm Fraser had



Calf love: Mrs Thatcher was a master of the positive image

just defeated Labour's Gough Whitlam. The lesson she learned was simple: provide the television cameras with the right pictures. and voters will believe in you.

This simple strategy was developed into a fine art by Sir Gordon Reece, Mrs Thatcher's media adviser, who appreciated both the thirst of television news editors for pictures and the credibility that television news bestows upon the images on the screen.

Mrs Thatcher cuddling a calf in a Suffolk field in 1979 marked a turning point in British election campaigning. When Mrs the cameras at a chocolate factory. the print journalists realised they had a new role - costumed extras

Thatcher Goes to Downing Street. These prototype Tory photoopportunities were cunningly pitched at the early-evening news bulletins, favoured by their target voters, the so-called C2s, skilled workers and their wives.

in the television soap Mrs

In the early 1980s campaign coverage was transformed by the coming of electronic news gathering (ENG), which dramatically reduced filming and editing. In the 1983 election, ITN and the BBC Thatcher again paraded before presented nightly packages on the

party leaders, following them from their morning press conference, on their countrywide tours, to the evening set-piece speech.

The extra coverage given to the party leaders was ideal for the Tories and disastrous for Labour. Mrs Thatcher's campaign became little more than a procession in front of the camera, one moment posing in a factory or school, the next proceeding on her way to the accompaniment of adulatory, flagwaving crowds of supporters.

Michael Foot was too guileless for this brave new world. The convention that television news gives the parties equal coverage exposed Labour's campaign. While Mrs Thatcher was shown touring triumphantly, one of the last great speech-makers was left looking like a character who had escaped from the archives.

Labour's PR transformation and its superior use of television during the 1987 campaign are now part of political folklore. With the bulk of the Press lauding Mrs Thatcher and denigrating Mr Kinnock, Labour strategists focused their efforts on television news. Labour won the battle for second place. The Alliance was sunk because the two Davids had no strategy. On the news they were Tweedledum and Tweedledee personified.

In 1992, all parties are steeped in the art of television manipulation. The agenda will be controlled by the party managers, not by the electorate; the party leaders will parade endlessly before the cam-eras, looking "nice" but remaining safely mute; and the proper journalistic functions of assessing the facts and the issues, as opposed to reciting what the parties say, will

again be marginalised. There is little ground for optimism. Despite the ritualistic fine words from broadcasters about journalistic values being paramount and the need to stand up to television news are pushing in the opposite direction. When deadlines are tight and resources stretched, it is virtually impossible to avoid accepting pictures giftwrapped by the party machines. Television journalists have little option but to write their words to the images that appear on the screen. If the pictures show euphoric scenes, it is almost impossible to report gloom in the party at its poor showing in the opinion

The party manipulators are aware that voters are not naïve and expect the parties to put across their best possible image. If a party is seen to have organised a good television campaign, it will have shown that it is professional. Effective manipulation of the media thus becomes a measure of their fitness to govern.

wen more disturbing is the readiness of television news editors to collude with the process. Setting the campaign agenda is abdicated to the party managers, who decide months in advance what issues will be raised on which days. An acceptance that politicians

should set the terms of debate during an election would be bad enough in itself, but the process has gone further. In 1987, television news collaborated with Labour to film a boy who had been denied a heart operation, the day before Labour raised the issue at a morning press conference. On the morning, television news had already been primed with telling pictures as evidence of the Government's alleged failure over the

Labour's "health shock" was highly effective, triggering panic at Conservative Central Office. But what became known as the Tories' "Wobbly Thursday" should be re-named "Black Thurs.day", because editors and reporters had allowed themselves to become part of the process.

As in 1987, part of the problem is the intensified competition between television channels. Producers and reporters who jib at accepting a party-inspired story will risk their news editors' fury if other channels carry what will make a good headline, however dubious its pedigree or purpose.

The thirst of television news for pictures is more insatiable than ever. There are more bulletins to fill, demanding more pictures so that the reports can be "freshened up" and made to look more "on the spot" than their competitors', or than the previous bulletin on the same channel.

In 1987, reporters on the road found themselves having to meet six or so different deadlines a day. That in itself was an all-demanding job, never mind trying to assess what was really happening. But the reporter's ability to stand back and try to make sense of the campaign for the viewer is in danger of getting lost in the rush to get the pictures on the screen.

Britain is an imperfect democracy. Anybody who thinks otherwise might ponder how the poll tax became law (this was an issue, incidentally, that TV news failed to highlight at the last election). But once every four or five years, power returns to the people.

Television news offers the most powerful medium available to bring the politicians to account. It is time to stop treating the campaign as the property of the parties and letting them dictate the terms of debate. If we are not prepared to put politicians, our representaives, on the spot at elections, we never will. Nor will we deserve to.

 The author produced and directed Channel 4's Dispatches election campaign special, to be broadcast at 9pm tonight.

Asking for an answer

BC Television Centre, Wood Lane, at 9.30 on the evening of the first crucial Monday in the election campaign, following the afternoon announcement by the Shadow Chancellor, John Smith, of Labour's alternative hydrest pro-Labour's alternative budget proposals. Norman Lamont debates live on the BBC current affairs flagship, Panorama, with the Labour Shadow and the Liberal Democrat's Treasury spokesman,

The media day has started reasonably enough for Labour, with both BBC Breakfast News and TV-am's Good Morning Britain previewing Mr Smith's proposals. At 7.20am on BBC, David Mellor appears in a filmed clip to say the Labour proposals. "are an awful muddle", even though they will not be an-nounced for a further eight hours. At 8.20 Mr Mellor appears live on Breakfast News to claim he wouldn't want to comment on the Shadow Budget'

The exchanges between the Labour Industry Secretary, Gordon Brown, and Mr Mellor feature much "bridging" — the preparing of responses rather than answers to the questions asked by the interviewer - in this case Nicholas Witchell.

To his credit Mr Witchell tells Mr Mellor that he has not answered the question when the first "bridge" takes place, but the interview then disintegrates with both sides making points rather than taking part in an interview. Mr Witchell ends by telling Mr Brown that he has not answered a question about Neil Kinnock's alleged "gaffe" on Frost on Sunday, when he spoke fondly of Michael Foot's 1983 version of the Labour party. Was this messy exchange a forerunner of future television political interviews during this election?

Honesty was seen in Jonathan Dimbleby's interview with Chancellor Lamont on Sunday's On the Record. Mr Lamont staged the interview at the Exchequer, immediately conferring incum-bent status. He made sure that the glass by his side was full of water but, unlike some poli-ticians, in particular Mrs Thatcher, he did not do away with the table that separated the combatants. His performance was hesitant, but rarely "bridged" until Mr Dimbleby pressed on the question of a guarantee to bring

r Lamont had stored up three sound bites, twice talking of the "pent-up spending power" in the country, and the "lag" effect of his policies before clear change results in the economy. He called Mr Dimbleby "a real press-a-button merchant when the interviewer pushed on the speed of the recovery, and three times interrupted an interruption demanding more time. This trick invariably puts an interviewer in a weaker position. The overall result, was that although the interview was not fluent, neither linguistically graceful, or nice, it gave an indication of a politician attempting to tell the truth.

As the tax debate continued

during Monday, the seemingly omnipresent Mr Mellor got an easy ride on Talking Point, an ITV phone-in question programme The communications consultant and Paddy Ashdown speech writer, Max Atkinson, recently claimed that such programmes can probe deeper "with the interviewer clarifying the questions from the public, insulated from accusations of political bias". This one was a failure, with smiles all round at the end, and the grinning Mr Mellor musing on which politician would be asked which politician would be asked the most questions in the pro-gramme's ten minute format.

By the early evening news, John Smith's figures had been numbercrunched and Norman Lamont had appeared at a stage-managed press conference to denounce the proposals. Although Channel 4 included criticism in its Shadow Budget package, it gave Mr Smith a cosy interview. The next inter-

view might be anything but.
The great success of Labour's day to date was to have relegated the launch of the Liberal Democrats' tax-raising manifesto to 20 minutes into the main six o'clock BBC news bulletin.

At 9.45pm, Mr Lamont, Mr Smith and Mr Beith are nervous. Mr Smith reveals his media streetwiseness when asked to do a sound check by David Dimbleby. The interviewer asks what Mr Smith would do if he were Mr Lamont. Mr Smith doesn't give a proper reply, then adds: "Said a cautious Mr Smith, in case this is being filmed.

Mr Lamont is testier still, when asked if he buys his shirts from Harvey Procter, the former MP. The debate is low key, civilised,

well handled, but hardly the historic event we were expecting. Mr Smith had said before going live that the atmosphere was "ritual", but really it was slightly dull. Perhaps it was the seating: unlike Newsnight's close-knit benches, here the three would-be chanceliors were spread out with desks of their own, statesmanlike, and verbal violence never threatened.

ROBIN HUNT

Landlords beat the gloom

Commercial space lies empty all over London, but Christopher Warman

finds a letting business that is booming

space are left empty by the recession, it is encouraging to find one company that is bucking the gloomy trend. London Industrial, the biggest provider of small business space in the capital, has taken on about 20 new tenants a month since last October, and is now signing up to eight every week.

The most recent enterprises to have taken space include a minicab business and companies offering kitchen containers, car alarms, catering, clothing and videos.

The company was started in 1987 on the initiative of Inner City Enterprises (ICE), a company established by City financial institutions to promote and undertake regeneration property

ICE acquired most of the former Greater London Council's industri-al property portfolio. In turn, the newly formed London Industrial company bought 18 small unit industrial estates, with 600 tenants, for almost £17 million.

Since then, London Industrial has developed, either by itself or in joint ventures, a further five commercial and industrial properties,

s acres of commercial and can provide for more than 800 tenants. The occupancy rate is a healthy 80 per cent.

The key to the group's success in attracting and retaining tenants is its management philosophy of "capitalism with a human face", says Alan Porter, the chairman Although London Industrial has a responsibility to its institutional shareholders, including the Prudential and Norwich Union, it also provides support services to tenants, such as a newsletter, a tenants' directory and incentives for recommending new occupiers.

Cutting the formalities to a minimum, the company offers easy-in-easy-out leases, backed by a management system that ensures that tenants do not get themselves into substantial rent arrears. The system is aimed at keeping 97 per cent of tenants up to date with their

Mr Porter says: "Because we were new, we could bring in stateof the art administration and man-

When we started, there were serious arrears in rents, and the estates were in a poor state. The general reaction of tenants was to welcome the new managers, who



The lighter side of marketing: a London Industrial brochure

kept in touch and made the estates run more efficiently, while gradually bringing rents up to open-market

Mr Porter says that because the company is owned by the institutions, it has to earn income at the market rate. "But we do have the interests of the community at heart," he adds. "We are 99.5 per cent wholly commercial, but com-

Business Centre, a development funded by the London borough of Waltham Forest and managed by London Industrial Some tenants have inevitably

been lost, mostly because of liquidation or retrenchment, but London Industrial believes its market bottomed out last July. The group's estates now have more tenants than last summer. Mr Porter has several aims. He

company has not only improved the estates it inherited, but complet-

ed three joint venture schemes with

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in the Surrey Docks, Brockley

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Twenty-three start-up businesses have been established at the Alpha

wants the group to form closer relationships with local authorities, hoping to take on the management of their estates, to diversify from east London, where its main strength lies, to the west and south, and perhaps to provide larger premises for those tenants that are growing out of their premises. In the longer term, Mr Porter wants to take London Industrial to the market by the end of 1994,

That would set the seal on the group's ever-increasing contribu-tion to small businesses in the

either by flotation or reverse

Computers signal an end to open-plan

MOST empty office blocks throughout the country are likely to stay vacant, and not only because of the recession, a conference was told last week, Christopher Warman writes.

Launching a handbook "Intelligent Buildings: Planning and Managing the IT Infrastructure". Roger Camrass, of CSC Index, a management consultancy, says that even some recently built office blocks have not been planned to accommodate modern technology. This can ultimately make the blocks difficult to let or sell." Most new developers, he added, were now avoiding such problems.

surveyors and space planners who design, fit and refurbish buildings

If, as estimated, almost every
office worker will have a computer terminal or work-station by 2000, the effect will be dramatic. Not only do lighting needs differ for people using computers, but research has also shown that productivity on computer-intensive tasks is higher when people are given individual or small-team offices. "As these

tasks become more common, there

will be moves from open-plan

towards smaller offices."

Camrass says.

The handbook provides practical

guidance to architects, engineers.

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LANDMARK Place, a new office development at Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, has a distinguished neighbour, it shares a site with a new church. The scheme is a UK-Finnish joint venture by Beazer Developments and Polar International, which built the church as part of the development deal St Quintin and Connell Wilson, the agent, is asking £19.75 a sq ft for the penthouse floors at Landmark Place.

NatWest rejig

NATIONAL Westminster Bank has unveiled proposals for the refurbishment and restoration of

its offices at 1 Prince's Street in the City of London. The building, designed by Sir Edwin Cooper, was completed in 1931, but now has inadequate space, while some of the original features have been

AA spreads out

A £15 million contract for the construction of a new office complex in Basingstoke, Hampshire, for the Automobile Association has been signed by the AA and builders Higgs and Hill. The £26 million project is to be completed in 1994, and the three-storey buildings will stand alongside the AA's £22 million corporate data centre. which was opened in 1989.

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Are the lenders lacking in tact?

he timing could hardly have been worse for the Nationwide. Last month. the country's second largest building society was forced to issue a grovelling apology to one of its customers. The Nationwide had without warning mistakenly repossessed Peter Holmes's flat in north London at a time when the society was trumpeting its caring approach to mortgage repossessions.

All the resources of the Nationwide's press office were employed to apologise. If a good face could not be put on the story, perhaps one not entirely covered in egg would

The society explained that it believed the flat had been abandoned by Mr Holmes, who was in arrears of £11,000 on his £55,000 mortgage. Nationwide staff had visited the flat in West End Lane in West Hampstead and found nobody there. The society said it was unfortunate that a local estate agent, acting on the Nationwide's behalf to change the locks on the flat, was not accompanied by anybody from the society who might have realised the error.

The Nationwide's unfortunate error" has now been rectified, to the extent that Mr Holmes's flat has Rachel Kelly on

two reports that. attack the attitudes

of the mortgage organisations

been returned to him. But the society's action will do nothing to help the image of building societies as less than sensitive in their dealings with borrowers. The evicting landlord, twirling his mous-tache and flinging families out into the snow, was a stock figure of Victorian melodrama. Building so cieties will have to act fast if they are not to be burdened with a similar

The case of Mr Holmes follows two recent reports which found that mortgage lenders had been too ready to resort to repossession and have given inappropriate advice to borrowers.

One report, "Repossessed: A fresh look at mortgage lending", published by the Catholic Housing Aid Society (Chas), which offers housing advice, says the behaviour of lenders last year contributed to

the unprecedented 75,540 mortgage repossessions.
"A combination of factors under-

he the current repossession crisis. but a too ready resort to repossession by mortgage lenders contributed to the unprecedented numbers of repossessions last year," says Sarah Jenkinson, the author of the report, which used 60 studies up to December from the files of National Debtline and Chas.

At all stages, lenders failed to give enough information about the rights and entitlements of borrow-ers. This is certainly a criticism that rings true in Mr Holmes's case. He was warned neither by letter nor phone of the impending repossession. "This is despite the fact that buying a home, invariably through a mortgage, is the largest and most important purchase a consumer is likely to make," Ms Jenkinson says. "Yet any small item of electrical equipment comes with more information on the rights and entitlements of the customer."

The report does not look at mortgage lender practice this year, but Ms lenkinson says: "We believe the lenders are still repossessing when they need not, and are still giving inappropriate advice." A report from the National



"An unfortunate mistake," said the building society when it repossessed Peter Holmes's north London flat without warning

Consumer Council chimes with that from Chas. Lenders, it says, fail to give adequate help to borrowers, do not contact customers until it is too late, and then insist on unrealistic repayment schedules.

Mark Boléat, the director-general of the Council of Mortgage Lenders, admitted that lack of advice on the part of lenders was part of the problem. But he said that there was an assumption throughout such reports that more advice would solve the problems.

"Our research, and that of others, has found that repossessions are caused not by inappropriate loans but when the circumstances of the borrower change," he says. He denied that lenders were too quick to repossess homes. "Lenders think they are doing everything they can to help. The courts give protection if the lenders go too quickly," he said. "It makes no sense in the present

As for the case of Mr Holmes, Mr Boléat said it was an isolated

market for lenders to repos

incident. "You could probably find many more cases where lenders were very reasonable and the borrowers very grateful, but those

people are not going to go public."

About 25,000 borrowers abandoned properties last year, Mr Boleat said. "The last thing a lender wants is a property to be repossessed. It's all very well to say that lenders should physically check whether a flat is empty but it's not always very easy to tell whether a flat has been abandoned. Usually lenders are not quick enough to catch abandoned flats and the properties lie empty for a month or two, which costs the lender a lot."

The Nationwide is more repentant. The building society has tightened its reporting procedures on repossessions and stipulated that in future staff must be present when the estate agents change the

For Mr Holmes, it is too late, but the change may help others in his

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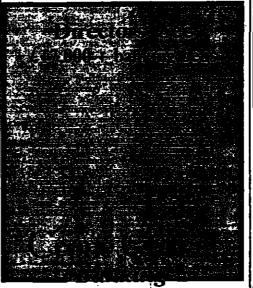
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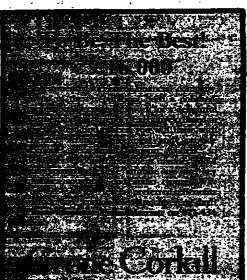
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Poll tax defaulter is

and time of such a hearing. They dearly thought that she would

They might well be right but she was entitled to be told of the

date and time of the hearing as a

matter of natural justice. The hearing affected her. It was held

However, his Lordship did not

accept that the hearing could not

proceed if she chose not to attend.

matter was a debtor entitled to

address a court at such a hearing? Clearly she was entitled to put the

authority to proof of non-pay-ment. Further, she was entitled to

draw the court's attention to any

change in circumstances since the decision to fix a term of imprison-

ment which rendered it inexpedi-

ent for the warrant of

There had to be an inherent

power in the court to vary its own order in a case where, since the

decision was made, the debtor

had become incapable of earning, for instance by reason of an

In coming to that conclusion

his Lordship was conscious of the

fact that under regulation 42(3) provision was made for a local authority to come back to the

commitment to issue.

on to fix a term of imprison-

The question arose: on what

plic. She should have the

have nothing new to say.

right to be there.

Part performance of contract

British Telecommunications GIBSON said that Mrs Ticehurst plc v Ticehurst and Another Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Ralph Gibson and Lord

[Judgment March 11] An employer, without bringing a

contract of employment to an end, was entitled to accept part performance by an employee who had withdrawn goodwill and who had every intention on his return to work after a strike of continuing that action.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment when allowing the appeal of British Telecommunications ple against the decisions by Judge Oddie in the Mayor's and City of London County Court on December 21. 1990 in favour of Mrs Alison Ticehurst and Mr Michael Thompson for sums due to them by BT who had refused to pay m for certain days in April 1990 because they had not proved that they were willing to perform in full their obligations under their contracts of

Mr Jeffrey Burke, QC and Mr Roy Lemon for BT; Mr Patrick Elias QC and Mr David Bean for Mrs Ticehurst and Mr

LORD JUSTICE RALPH to honour the terms of his or her

Commissioners of Customs

and Excise v Battersea Lei-

A payment by a vendor of land to

the purchaser as an allowance for

sums expended by the purchaser to make the site safe for further

"consideration" for the numouses

of the Value Added Tax Act 1983.

evidence might be admitted for

determining whether contracts gave rise to a liability for VAT

remained strictly circumscribed and such evidence might not be

introduced for the purpose of changing the legal character of a

Mr Justice Kennedy so held

when giving judgment in favour of the Commissioners of Customs

and Excise in an appeal under the Tribunals and Enquiries Act

1971 against the decision of a VAT tribunal of January 23.

1990 allowing an appeal by Battersea Leisure Ltd against an

In 1984, the Central Electricity Generating Board held a com-

sioners on July 18, 1988.

nt raised by the commis-

The extent to which extrinsic

Before Mr Justice Kennedy

[Judgment February 20]

was employed as a buildings manager and Mr Thompson was employed as a computer support manager at BT's Stone Technical College, Staffordshire.

The case arose out of a pay increase industrial dispute between BT and the Society of Telecom Executives, a trade union which represented about 30,000 of the 40,000 executives of a certain grade employed by

From about June 1989 the union members were taking part in industrial action short of strike general withdrawal of goodwill, working strictly to conditioned hours and refusing to undertake new temporary advancement. In October 1989 the union intensified the industrial action which then centred on a withdrawal of

In February 1990, the union members voted in favour of taking strike action in support of the pay claim and a half-day strike was called for April 6, 1990 and that thereafter "there would be a rolling campaign of strategic strikes" which would start at Stone with a two-day strike. ployee who took part in further industrial action was not willing

petition for proposals for the future of its redundant power station, a listed building, at Battersea. By the terms of the competition the CEGB was to

contribute about £1 million to-

wards the cost of removing asbes-

Battersea Leisure were the

successful party but, as the result of delays, the agreement provided by clause 22 for CEGB to allow a

further sum in return for Batter-

sea Leisure undertaking respon-sibility for the removal of asbestos.

The total remittance of the

CEGB was £2,248,893 and on July 18, 1988 the Customs and

Excise made a VAT assessment of £293,833.35, that being the tax

element on the basis that the payment to Battersea Leisure was

provisions of section 3(2)(b) of the

Battersea Leisure successfully

appealed to a VAT tribunal which

admitted extrinsic evidence including the purpose and

motives of the parties, in that the

removal was for the public good,

in their negotiations leading up to

Mr Nigel Pleming for the ommissioners: Mr John Tallon

a consideration under the

tos from the site.

1983 Act.

the contract

for the company.

contract of employment. On April 12, 1990 Mrs Ticehurst and Mr Thompson were told that as they had taken part in the two-day further strike they were to leave the premises. They were not suspended but were deemed to be on strike.

On April 17, 18, 19 and 20. 1990 they returned to work where they were requested to sign an undertaking to work in ac-cordance with the terms of their contracts of employment. When they refused to sign they were

again asked to leave the premises. The judge had found that both Mrs Ticehurst and Mr Thompson had been ready willing and able to return to work and awarded them sums for wages claimed by them to be due.

It was necessary to imply a term to define the relevant duties of the employees under their contracts of employment as a term "to serve the employer faithfully within the requirements of the contract. Such a term was necessarily to be implied in the case of a manager who was given charge of the work of other employees and who therefore had necessarily to be judgment and discretion in giving instructions to others and in supervising their work. Such a

MR JUSTICE KENNEDY said the supply of services was taxable under section 1 of the

1983 Act. Section 2 made it

chargeable on any supply made by a taxable person in the course

by a taxable person in the course of any business. Was this an

xempt supply? Section 3(2)(b) provided, inter

alia, that "anything which is not a supply of goods but is done for a consideration is a supply of ser-vices". Did Bancrsea do some-

The word "consideration" had

no statutory definition in the 1983 Act but had a special meaning in the English law of contract and was used in EC

directives which were binding on

Article 2 of the Sixth Directive provided that the supply of services effected for a consideration by a taxable person would be

In his Lordship's judgment this

was not a case for the admission of

extrinsic evidence. The nature of

the transaction was apparent on

The extrinsic evidence that the tribunal had regard to only re-

vealed something about the nego-tiations leading to the contract and had indeed tended to mis-

thing for a consideration?

member states.

to VAT

the face of the contract.

employers.

Participation by the employees in the concerted action of withdrawal of goodwill constitu breach of that implied term wherethose employees intended to con-tinue to participate in it.

The implied term was breached when the employee did an act, or omitted to do an act, which it would be within his or her contract and the discretion allowed him or her not to do, or to do, as the case might be, and the employee so acted or omitted to do that act, not in an honest exercise of choice or discretion for the faithful performance of his or her work but in order to disrupt the employer's business or to could be caused.

As the employees on their return to work were evincing an intention to continue to participate in the action of withdrawal of goodwill, BT were entitled, and without terminating the contracts of employment, to refuse to let them remain at work and to accept part performance only by them of their contracts of

Lord Justice Neill and Lord Justice Stocker agreed. Solicitors: Mr Colin R. Green; Lawford & Co, Richmond upon

Limit to extrinsic evidence in VAT

If extrinsic evidence was excluded there plainly was a supply of services directly linked to the

Battersea Leisure did not themselves undertake to remove asbesin the freehold of the power station after March 11, 1987 but into account, it was impossible to conclude that there was no service rendered in return for the pay-

admitting extrinsic evidence; (ii) in having regard to what it conceived to be the motives of the parties in relation to the removal of the asbestos and (iii) in concludagreement the board was obliged

was something being done or to be done by Battersea Leisure which was directly linked to the payment being made by the CECB.

clause 22 payments made by the CEGB.
It had to be admitted that

tos and the CEGB had no interest as Mr PLeming submitted, even if one took the extrinsic evidence The tribunal was in error (i) in

ing that the payments, which by virtue of clause 22(a) of the to make, were to be made otherwise than for the supply of services within the meaning of section 3(2)(b) of the 1983 Act. Solicitors: Solicitor, Customs and Excise; Jolliffe & Co, Chester.

County free to axe Regina v Faversham and Sittinghourne Justices, Ex parte Ursell buses

v Hertfordshire County Council, Ex parte Three Rivers District

Before Mr Justice Roch [Judgment March 9]

The appropriate level of provision of public transport under section 63 of the Transport Act 1985 was a matter for the county council concerned once it had identified the public transport requirements in its area. The council was entitled to take into consideration the funds it had available and. where part was contributed by

Mr Justice Roch so held in the Queen's Bench Division dismiss-ing an application by Three Rivers District Council for ju-dicial review of decisions by Hertfordshire Council but Council withdrawing certain bus services in its area.

Mr Stephen Hockman, QC and Mr Peter Gower for the applicant; Mr Duncan Ouseley for the respondent.

MR JUSTICE ROCH said Three Rivers Council had decided to stop contributing to the subsidy on bus services in its area for the year 1990/91. The subsidy had been paid to Hertfordshire County Council which provided the bulk of the money for the

The county council had then decided to withdraw financial support from certain services in the Three Rivers district.

The applicant had contended that the aim of the 1985 Act was to ensure that such identified public transport requirements as were not met by commercial services were met by councils. It said the county council was under a duty to meet the services which would not otherwise be met and had no discretion as to whether or not to meet such requirements once identified. His Lordship said the county council had a duty to identify

public transport requirements and to secure the provision of such services as it considered appro-priate to meet the requirements it had identified. What was appro-Mr Timothy Lleyd, QC and Mr Stephen Acton for Mr Steed; Mr priate was for the county council On the evidence, there was no evidence that the county council's decision had been irrational, per-

Solicitors: Sharpe Pritchard;

unknown to Mr Steed, the owner of the property, or the building society. It was voidable but not void. The question was whether the court had power to order rectification under section 82 of the 1925 Act.

There was a sense in which the power to rectify was undoubtedly discretionary. The words in section 82(1) were "may be rectified". It did not follow, however. that there was a general discretion to grant recification as that was limited to "any of the following CB985".

In his Lordship's opinion the scheme was reasonably clear. Paragraphs (a) and (b) of subection (1) gave power to the court to make orders of rectification in order to give effect to property rights which had been established in an action or were clear.

Paragraph (c) enabled orders to be made by consent. Paragraphs (d) to (g) were intended to deal with errors of a particular character and paragraph (h) was added

entitled to hearing was necessary before the warrant the debtor had changed but no of commitment was issued. They were right to do so. provision was made under that sub-regulation for the situation They did not, apparently, consider that it was necessary for the where the circumstances of the debtor had changed since a term debior to have notice of the date

of imprisonment was fixed. Nonetheless the court could make good the deficiency of the regulations in that regard. It was difficult to believe that the law should treat a criminal who had been fined with greater consideration than a person who had failed to pay her community

In criminal proceedings the court could always change its mind and, if it had remitted the sum owed, then no imprisonment needed to be served. That facility was not available under the community charge legislation and the law would be very unsatisfactory if the court, having once fixed a term of imprisonment and postponed the issue of the warrant was thereafter forced on every occasion to issue the varrant if the money had not been paid.

One needed only consider an accident of the type mentioned. The court had to have a discretion to issue no warrant and was bound to allow the debtor an opportunity to address it prior to the exercise of its discretion as to whether or not the warrant should

Solicitors: Jane Coker & Co.

Rectification power limited

Building Society v Steed Before Lord Justice Purchas, Lord Justice Butler-Sloss and Lord

Before Mr Justice Schiemann

Justices who had fixed a term of

imprisonment for wilful refusal to

pay the community charge but

postponed the issue of the warrant on condition of future payment in

instalments, under regulation 41(3)(b) of the Community Charges (Administration 1990

Enforcement) Regulations 1989 SI No 438), should hold a further

hearing, of which the debtor had

had notice of the date and time

and an opportunity to attend, before issuing a warrant of

breach of the condition. Mr Justice Schiemann so held

in the Queen's Bench Division in

granting an application for ju-dicial review to quash a decision

of Faversham and Sittingbourne

Justices to issue a warrant committing the applicant, Anne Ursell, to prison for 30 days.

Mr Benedict Emmerson for the

MR JUSTICE SCHIEMANN

applicant; the justices did not

appear and were not represented

said that the reasoning in R v Poole Justices. Er parte Fleet [1983] 1 WLR 974) which concerned proceedings for collecting civil debts, seemed to apply to the

The justices appeared to have accepted that a second hearing

instant case.

nitment to prison following

(Judgment March 13)

[Judgment March 5 On a true construction of section 82 of the Land Registration Act 1925, a court had no general discretion to order rectification of the register in any case in which it

might be thought just to do so.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by Michael Derek Steed against the refusal by Mr Justice Knox, on December 15, 1989, to order rectification of the register by the deletion of a charge by the plaintiffs on 2 Arlow Road, Winchmore Hill.

Jonathan Rayner James, QC and Mr Clive Hugh Jones for the

LORD JUSTICE SCOTT said that the transfer in respect of which the charge arose had been

any other errors.

The breadth of that provision

was, his Lordship imagined, the reason why it was thought appropriate to make the power exerciseable "where . . . it may be deerned just to rectify the reg-ister". There were no comparable words in any of the other paragraphs.

Paragraph (h) had been relied on by Mr Lloyd. But in order for it to be applicable some "error or omission in the register" or some entry made under a mistake had to be shown.

The entry in the register of the building society's legal charge was not an error and was not voidable transfer had not been set aside and the case for rectification could not be brought under paragraph (h).
Lord Justice Butler-Sloss and

Lord Justice Purchas agreed. Solicitors: Chambers Rutland & Crauford, Finchley, Church End; Warrens Boves & Archer.

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Scots Law Report March 18 1992 **Breach of interdict**

McIntyre v Sheridan Before Lord Caplan

Judgment January 281 Where an individual was inter-dicted from impeding sheriff officers from carrying out their ss, it was un had personally interfered with them in a physical manner for him to be found in breach of

Lord Caplan so held in the Outer House of the Court of Session, sentencing Thomas Sheridan to six months imprison-ment upon a minute for breach of interdict brought by Robert Mc-Intyre, Sheriff Officer.

Miss Leona Dorrian for the minuters; Mr Derek Batchelor for

LORD CAPLAN said that the minuters, a firm of sheriff officers, had been instructed by a local authority to collect arrears of community charge from a debtor by holding a warrant sale.

The respondent had been inter-dicted from attending the sale or from impeding or otherwise inter-fering with the day-to-day busi ness of the minuters and the carrying out of their lawful duties. or from encouraging or instruct-ing others to do so.

On the morning of the sale the sheriff officers had been sitting in

their van at the yard where the sale was to take place when 30 or 40 people had come into the yard.
They had battered the side of
the van. They had let down the
tyres. They had begun to shake
the van to and fro and someone asked the crowd to stand clear of one side of the van, giving the occupants the impression that the intention was to overturn it.

They were terrified and pumped the horn frantically to attract police assistance. Meanwhile the crowd in the yard were increasing and were followed by the police, who had then restored

The respondent had entered the yard towards the rear of the crowd. Eventually there had been a crowd of about 200 to 250 people. After the police had surrounded the van the crowd had become more pacific. Many had carried placards protesting

against the sale. There had been some waving of fists and some isolated scuffling. The respondent had stood on a platform on a number of occasions and addressed the crowd. He had been the only person to do so and had said, inter alia:

"We would appeal to the polis not to protect these people. These people are nothing but soum and they shouldnae allow the warrant sale to take place." The respondent had held up a

piece of paper and said: "This interdict is to stop me and every single one of youse from being here today. As far as I'm con-cerned this is what they can do with their bloody interdict." He had then torn the paper he was holding and thrown the bits into the crowd. He had also

declared: "As far as we are concerned there will be no sale."

impression that the respondent vas a person the crowd looked to for leadership. Moreover mem-bers of the crowd who had appeared to be active in the demonstration had conferred

At 10.50am it had been de-cided to cancel the sale given the numbers of persons ga the yard and the threatening behaviour that some elements had shown themselves to be capable of. There had been no practical possibility that the sale could have taken place. Thereafter, the respondent had approached the senior police of-

with him from time to time

ficer present and said that he could arrange to allow the van to leave the yard but the crowd would not leave before the van. After the respondent spoke the crowd cleared a path for the van. The respondent had accepted that he was the chairman of the Scottish Anti-Poll Tax Federation and that organisation had arranged the assembly of the crowd, although it was said that that had

been received. His position was that his attendance and activities were simply a legitimate, political protest. He claimed that he had not called on the crowd to stop the sale. As he put it: "I said nothing as specific as that."

He accepted that people did tend to listen to what he said. He viewed his attendance at the sale as being in a personal capacity. The respondent claimed that he had torn up the interdict to demonstrate his contempt for the manner in which it had been erved and had told the court that it was obvious from his statements and acts that he had no intention of being bound by the interdict. Counsel for the respondent argued that the respondent had not been interdicted as chairman

of the Scottish Anti-Poll Tax Federation or as part of the crowd. Moreover, he had not attended the sale since it was not due to commence until 11 am. He had not physically impeded or interfered with the sheriff

officers. It was not a breach of interdict to make a speech or participate in a political protest. The crowd had already assembled and would have interrupted the sale whatever the respondent had

In his Lordship's view, the amounted to a flagrant and interdict. The respondent had minuters' representatives as they had also encouraged others to do

It could scarcely be contested that the crowd gathered in the yard had impeded and interfered with the minuters in the conduct of their business. Nor could it be disputed that the crowd had gathered with the object of stop-

ping the sale.

The respondent was quite mistaken if he considered that before it could be said that he had impeded or interfered with the sheriff officers it had to be shown that he had personally interfered with them in a physical manner. One impeded or interfered with sheriff officers if one did anything calculated and likely to obstruct the conduct of their lawful

The respondent had known that the crowd had contained elements who were unruly and aggressive. Nevertheless he had addressed the crowd in a manner which could only be described as inflammatory bot, in content and in manner of delivery. He had contemptuously torn up

what appeared to be the interim interdict which could only be taken as a representation to the crowd that their purposes merited ignoring the rule of law. He obviously had influence over the crowd and chose deliberately to give them a lead. He was extremely sanguine if he imagined that any expr in Scotland would ever tolerate activities which resulted in physical interference with the lawful

business of persons specifically appointed to act as officers of the court.
To interfere aggressively with officers of the court going about their lawful business was in itself a crime and that should be carefully considered by him and those who

night be tempted to repeat what had happened. In a democracy there were many forms of political protest which were available but ignoring court orders and obstructing sheriff officers were not among their

number. Law agents: Drummond Miller, WS; David Clark & Co.

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new of the section of the above
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9 March 1992

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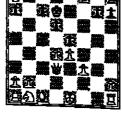
I Vietnam rice delta (6) 540th wedding anniversary 8 Pulsate (5) 9 Dilute acetic acid (7) 15Draughtsman's angle (3,6) 18St David's Day vegetable (4) 19Henry VI Kent rebel (4,4) 24 University chair holder (4) 4Act unmercifully (4,2,7) 5S African currency (4) 6Large hunted animals (3.4) 7Cache (5)

> 17Shaky (5) 20Spanish farewell (5) WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

Today's position is from the game Rodzinsky -Alekhine, Paris 1913. Black has gambitted a rook and knight to ture the white queen away from the defence. How did black finish off?

Solution below



Solution: 1 ... 8e7! 2 Oxin8 Bh4 mate.

BBC 1

6.00 Ceefax (96708) 6.30 BBC Breakfast News (57645234)
9.05 Election CSR presented by Jonathan Dimbleby. The Liberal Democrat spokesman on the economy, Alan Beith, fields phone-in questions from the electorate. To participate ring 071-799 5000. Simultaneous broadcast with Radio 4 (1499031)
10.00 News, regional news and weather (8733741) 10.05 Playdays (s)

(8236166) 10.25 Poddington Peas (r) (8743128) 10.35 Gibberish. Celebrity word game (9277760)

11.00 News, regional news and weather 11.05 Holiday. With reports from Lapland, the Bahamas and Brittany (r). (Cesfax) (s) (3826321) 11.30 People Today presented by Minam Stoppard and Adrian Mills. With News, regional news and weather at 12.00 (9602234) 13.20 Behibb Mills. Weith News, regional news and weather at 12.00 (9602234)

12.20 Pebble Mill Music and chat hosted by Judi Spiers (2322963) 12.55 Regional News and weather (60954147) 1.00 One O'Clock News and weather (28234)

1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (s) (59020447) 1.50 Going for Gold. Henry Kelly with another round of the quiz (55420483)

2.15 Hawati Five-O. The first of a two-part crime mystery *Once Upon a Time* (7983079) 3.05 Help Your Child With Science. Ways energy is used (1474895) 2.15 Moment of Truth. Jennie and Herbie Watson as they train 13 delinquent dogs (r) (6970470) Herbie Watson as they train 13 detinquent dogs (r) (6970470)
3.50 Caterpiller Trail. Children's wildlife series. How plants and animals have created their own habitats alongside canals, motorways, docks and railways (r) (6268499) 4.05 Fiddley Foodle Bird. Animation (s) (4694760) 4.15 Jacksmory. Bernard Cribbins with part three of The Story of Doctor Doolittle (5860857) 4.30 The New Yogl Bear Show (r) (s) (8455673) 4.35 Bucky O'Hara (982842)

5.00 Newsround (3522470) 5.10 A Likely Lad. Episode five of the sixpart children's drama. (Ceefax) (s) (2558741)

part cincren's chainet. (Cestax) (s) (2007+1)
5.35 Neighbours (r). (Cestax) (s) (223012)
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Anna Ford and Chris Lowe. (Cestax)
Weather (147) 6.30 Regional News Magazines (499)
7.00 Liverpool in Europe. Live coverage of the Uefa cup quarter-final
second leg between Liverpool and Genoa at Anfield. The

commentators are Barry Davies and Trevor Brooking (16499) 9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Martyn Lewis. (Ceefax). Regional news

and weather (723321)
9.50 Party Election Broadcast on behalf of the Conservative party

10.00 Q.E.D: The Miracle Man. CHOICE: After last week's sober offering about a family coping with death, Q.E.D. is back on more familiar ground with a report from the United States on herbal medicine. Henry Murray, who made the film, has a lump on his neck, it has been diagnosed as a tumour. He hears about a wonder drug being developed from the leaves of a desert bush in the Arizona desert and decides to give it a try. The bio-chemist from Switzerland who developed the drug claims spectacular success in treating conditions from cancer to baldness. Will it remove Murray's lump or is he being hoodwinker by a piece of superstitious nonsense? The film cannity leaves these questions dangling until the very last frames, while introducing us to the curiously untorthooming blo-chemist and some of his more enthusiastic patients. (Ceefax) (31147). Wales: (to 10.40) Election 92 Special

(Ib 13-40) Estion 92 Special Special Sportsnight introduced by Desmond Lynam. Boxing: the WBO flyweight title fight between Scotland's Pat Clinton and the Mexican Isidro Perez at the Kelvin Hall, Glasgow; Football: highlights of FA cup quarter-final replays and Liverpool's Uefa cup quarter-final second leg match against Genox (7014875)



A successful track record: singer Beverley Craven (11.50pm) 11.50 Beverley Craven in Concert. The singer recorded last year at the

new Symphony Hall in Birmingham (r) (s) (545321)

12.30am On the Hustings (49529) 1.00 Weather (27529). Ends at 1.05

2.00 The Way Ahead. The ninth of 12 programmes explaining April's new benefits for the disabled (6548567). Ends at 2.15

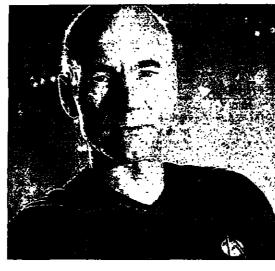
BBC 2

6.45 Open University: Town and Country in Ancient Rome (8783418).
Ends at 7.10
8.00 Breakfast News (9420418)
8.15 40 Minutes: A Cabinet of Curiosities (r) (8580586)
9.00 Daytime on 2. Educational programmes
2.00 News and weather (74064050) followed by You and Me (r) (58524896) 2.15 Under Sail. The Windfall yachts, confiscated

from the Germans after the second world war (r) (32716128) 2.35 Country File. Rural issues examined (r) (6844012) 3.00 News and weather (3380128) 3.05 High Chapanal. Western adventures (6139296) 3.50 News, regional news and weather

(4346857) 4.00 Catchword. Game for wordsmiths, presented by Paul Coia (352) 4.30 Kitty Gordon. Series featuring women first interviewed in the 1960s recalling the past 20 years. Today's subject was a London socialite with tashion model aspirations (r). (Ceetax) (2408741)

5.10 Horizon: Hot Jam in the Doughnut, Nuclear fusion as a practical source of power (r). (Ceefax) (s) (9834418)



Captain Picard of the USS Enterprise: Patrick Stewart (6.00pm) 6.00 Star Treic The Next Generation, Science fiction adventures

star Free Tire Vent Gerhardon, Science leuch adventures staring Patrick Stewart. (Ceefax) (637654)

6.45 DEF II begins with Reportage presented by Aminatta Forna (243499) 7.35 Rapido. Music and showbiz magazine introduced by Antoine de Caunes (652321)

8.05 Trouble Behind. ● CHOICE: Corbin, a small town in south Kentucky, is best known

as the birthplace of the fried chicken man, Colonel Sanders. This is not, however, a documentary about the fast food industry but a study of racism. Corbin owed its prosperity to the railroad, which by the outbreak of the first world war was employing large numbers of black workers. But by 1919 southern whites were feeling under threat and the Klu Klux Klan had five million members. In one of nearly 30 racial explosions across the United States, the whites of Corbin drove the black reliway workers out and the town still has no black residents. The film is both a reconstruction of the event and an attempt to locate racial undercurrents in Corbin today. The locals tend to put up a smokescreen when tackled on the subject but the old prejudices rty linger on (222296)

clearly linger on (222296)

9.00 Film: North Shore (1987) staming Matt Adler and Gregory Harrison.

A made-for-television surfing action movie about a young man who goes to Hawaii after winning a man-made surfing competition in Arizona and learns that life is tougher when faced with the real thing. Directed by William Phelps. (Ceefax) (s) (5555)

10.30 Party Election Broadcast on behalf of the Conservative party

10.40 Newsnight presented by Peter Snow (505673) 11.35 The Late Show. Arts and media magazine (129147)

12.05am Weather (7125819) 12.20 Open University: What Was Modernism? (7120364). Ends at

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ITV

6.00 TV-em (3398895)
9.25 Lucky Ladders. Word association game hosted by Lennie Bennett (9928031) 9.55 Thames News (6898418)
10.00 The Time...The Place... Topical discussion series

presented by Mike Scott (6347895)

10.40 This Morning. Magazine series introduced by Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan. Today's edition includes Penny Junor's series in which writers discuss their work and technique; and slimming advice. With national and international news at 10.55 and regional news at 11.55 followed by national weather (4109012)

12.10 Alisorts. Entertainment for children (s) (9002470)
12.30 Lunchtime ITN News with Nicholas Owen and Sonia Ruseler.
(Oracle) Weather (7481012) 1.10 Thames News (77851215) 1.20 Nome and Away, Australian family drama serial (63424031) 1.50 A Country Practice. Medical drama set in the Australian outback 96657031)

2.20 Graham Kerr. The Antipodean cook is joined by Leah Chase from New Orleans and they prepare a new version of shrimp gurribo (46769147) 2.50 Take the High Road. Soap set in the Highlands

3.15 TTN News headlines (3390505) 3.20 Thames News headlines (3397418) 3.25 The Young Doctors. Drame based in an Australian city hospital (8761470) 3.55 The Dream

The Dreamstone, Cartoon fantasy series (s) (4367470) 4.20 Finders Keepers, Game show presented by Neil Buchanan (6383031) 4.50 Johnny Ball Reveals All. Johnny Ball with the first of a new entertaining learning series (5887470) 5.10 Blockbusters. Quiz game for teenagers. With Bob Holness

(8458760)
5.40 Early Evening News with John Suchet. (Oracle) Weather 5.55 Thames Help. A look at campaigns for healthier children (r) (700012)

6.00 Home and Away (r). (Oracle) (215) 6.30 Thames News. (Oracle) (895) 7.00 This is Your Life. Michael Aspel springs a surprise on another

unsuspecting worthy (8925)

Rovers' hotpot: Roy Barraclough, Charles Lawson (7.30pm) 7.30 Coronation Street. Jim McDonald stirs up trouble for Alec in the Rovers. Starring Roy Barraclough and Charles Lawson (609).

8.00 The Match. Live coverage of the European Cup winners' cup quarter-final second leg game between Tottenham Hotspur and Feyencord at White Hart Lane. The commentator is Brian Moore

(9505)

10.00 News at Ten with Julia Somerville and Trevor McDonaid. (Oracle) Weather (26215) 10.30 Thames News (347321)

10.40 Films Breakineart Pass (1975) starring Charles Bronson and Ben Johnson. Mystery western about a detachment of US Cavalry travelling by train to an outpost that is suffering from an outbreak of diptheria. During the journey they are joined by a US marshal and then mysterious deaths start to occur. Written by Alistair MacLean and directed by Tom Gries (21505147)

12.30 Visions. The beliefs of birth guru Sheila Kitzinger (r) (61797)

1.00 International Emmy Awards introduced by Roger Moore in New York. Awards for the world's top television programmes (49797)

2.00 Profile. The Pet Shop Boys talk about their music (6533635)

2.15 America's Top Ten (s) (53890)

2.45 Videofashion. A look at the International super-models (6671432)

3.10 Quiz Night. Pub and club team competition (37436180)

3.40 Stephen King's This is Horror (r) (29758345)

4.10 Along the Cotswold Way. Clive Gunnell travels from Cleeve Hill to Winchcombe (66915187)

chcombe (66915187)

to Wild Cost (3 107)
4.49 Fifty Years On (b/w). Vintage newsreels (36106529)
5.00 Witness to Survival. With black athlete Wilma Rudolph and legendary fire-fighter "Red" Adair (59567)
5.30 FIN Morning News with Phil Roman (91426). Ends at 6.00

RADIO 3

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Channel 4 Dally (3396437)

9.25 Schools (54783147)
12.00 Nosh's Ark. Spanish-made documentary series about the nature and environment of Venezuela (23128)

12.30 Business Daily. The latest news from the world's financial centres (75079)1.00 Sesame Street. Entertaining early-learning series (63234) 2.00 Film: To Be or Not to Be (1942, b/w).

 CHOICE: Director Ernst Lubitsch was taking a risk when at the height of the second world war he decided to make a comedy set in occupied Poland. As his tale of a troupe of actors caught up with 15. in occupied Poland. As his tale of a froupe of actors caught up with the Nazis in Warsaw hit the screens, the flak was inevitable. Accusations of bad taste were compounded when the leading lady, Carole Lombard, was idlied in an air crash soon after completing the film. Lubitsch was compelled to defend himself. He claimed that none of the jokes had been almed at the destruction of Warsaw and that his butts were the Nazis and actors who remained actors whatever the dangers around them. Half a century on the film can be enjoyed for the witty, irreverent masterplace it is, Jack Benny partners Lombard and there is fine support from the Marx Brothers' stooge, Sig Rumann. (807437)

3.55 A Job Well Done. Cartoon (6300708)
4.00 Short Stories: The Big Issue. The story of Britain's first newspaper for the homeless and the characters who sell it on the streets (r) (708) 4.30 Countdown, Words and numbers game (s) (692)

5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. A look at the resurgence of racism in the United States, focusing on the lower town of Dubuque

5.55 Laurel and Hardy. Cartoon (708654)
6.00 Kate and Ailie. American comedy series about two divorcees sharing a Greenwich Village home and single parenthood (857)

6.30 Torright with Jonathan Ross. The guests are Ben Elton, Sharon Gless and Nik Cohn (s) (437) 7.00 Channel 4 News with Jon Snow and Zeinab Badawi. (Teletext)

(839470)

7.50 Voters. Three voters from Dewsbury discuss what they see as important election issues (383465) okside. Soap set in suburban Merseyside. (Teletext) (s) (5215)

8.30 Food File. This third of an eight-part series on food investigates whether supermarkets offer value for money (7050)

9.00 Dispatches.

OCHOICE: Anticipating the charges of bias that will inevitably be made as the election campaign progresses, television gets its retaliation in early. Presented by Hugo Young, the film looks at how the political parties have perfected the art of manipulating election the pointical parties have partiected the art of manipulating excluding coverage with the photo opportunity, the stage-managed rally and the careful placing of stories to catch news deadlines. These skills were pioneered by the Conservatives in 1979 but Labour has more than caught up. Television journalists feet they are surrendering editorial control too esaily. The film does not ask how much it matters. In 1987 Labour fought a brilliant television campaign and was still trounced. At the same election the "two Davids" were considered a meriting disease but the Alliance managed a decent 23 considered a media disaster but the Alliance managed a decent 23

10.00 The Golden Girts. Delicious comedy about four women of a certain age living together in Miami. Tonight's special guest is Burt Reynolds. (Teletext) (24857)

10.30 The Jack Dee Show. More humour from the po-faced comedian He is joined by singer/songwriter Georgie Fame (s) (33505)



Comic exposés: the wacky television news team (11.00pm) 11.00 Drop the Dead Donkey. Topical comedy set in a te

newsroom (6789) 11.30 Hero Hungry. Black comedy about a young journalist desperate for his byline to appear in the newspaper. As the Falklands war erupts he decides to invent a national hero. Starring Christopher

Fulford (723437)

12.15em Tonight with Jonathan Ross (r) (s) (75068)

12.46 Dick Spanner. Puppet private eye series created by Gerry Anderson (9918664). Ends at 12.50

SATELLITE

SKY ONE

SKY ONE

• Via the Astra and Mancopolo satellites.
• 0.00em The DJ Kat Show (80332031) 8.40

Mrs Pepperpot (8201383) 8.55 Playabout (6417589) 9.10 Cartoons (8271037) 9.30 The Nere Leave it to Beaver (19437) 10.00

Massdo (37418) 10.30 The Young Doctors (89708) 11.00 The Bold and the Beauthit (18234) 11.30 The Bold and the Beauthit (18234) 11.30 The Young and the Residess (87760) 12.30pm Barnety Jones (82012) 1.30 Anosher World (945392) 2.20 Santa Berbara (54692296) 2.45 Wife of the Week (962506) 3.15 The Bracky Bunch (297609) 3.45 The DJ Kat Show (7157147) 5.00 Diffrent Stooken (4975) 5.30 Bewisched 3.45 The DJ Kat Show (7157147) 5.00 Diffrent Stroken (4975) 5.30 Bewisched (3578) 6.00 Facts of Lide (8401) 6.30 Candid Camera (1383) 7.00 Love at First Sight (4019) 7.30 Totally Hidden Video (8645) 8.00 Battleatur Gefactica (35483) 9.00 Chances (4963) 10.00 Studs (71789) 10.30 Night Court (80437) 11.00 Sonny Spoon (45925) 12.00 Against the Wind (99155) 1.00am Pages from Skytext

SKY NEWS SKY NEWS

• Vis the Astrs and Mercopolo satellites. News on the hour.

6.00am Survise (5597895) 9.30 The Conferences (17079) 10.00 News, incl Election Phone-In (12418) 11.00 Dayline (28942) 11.30 Nightline (17505) 1.30pm Good Morning America (13533) 2.30 Good Morning America (13533) 3.30 Travel Destinations (28925) 4.30 Fashion TV (1705) 5.00 Live at Five (23505) 8.30 Newsine (17835) 1.30 ABC News (68364) 2.30 Memories (47277) 3.30 ABC News (42722) 4.30 Memories (77345) 5.30 Newsine (37242)

SKY MOVIESA.

SKY MOVIES- Vie the Astra and Marcopolo sat 6.00am Showcase (3901321) 10.00 Mystary Manalon (1983) (84741) 12.00 Frog Girl (84128) 1.00pm All the Kids Do It (1984). A boy's athletic future is curtafed (84596) 2.00 Spaced Invaders (1990): Five Marians crashland on Earth on Hallowe'en (32302)

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ROMF . MANCHESTER . BARCELONA . PARIS

4.00 The Waching of Ben Wagner (1987): A boy betriends a girl whose mother is a witch (51953079) 5.40 Entertainment Yonight (758383) SKY SPORTS

\$5.40 Entertainment Yonight (758383)
8.00 Fire: Trapped on the 37th Floor
(1991): True-life cissum (\$2166)
8.00 Nowhere to Hide (1987): Amy Madigun
is pursued by her husband's Idlere (2483)
10.00 Dark Angel (1980): Policeman Dolph
Lundgren tracier an inter-galactic druge
celer (224825)
11.35 Catherine Cherie (1982): Erotic
drams (33015): August (1987): Comedy set in
a retorm school (4021161)
2.50 Murder in Black and White (1980):
Two detectives investigate the killing of a
black police chief (83469): Horior at a house
4.30 (Rhoules (1985): Horior at a house
8000m: Territs APP Tour (50833) 12.00

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

10.15 The Belle of the reviewed the Starting Mae West (10551236) 12.00 Arsenic and Old Lace (1942, b/w):

Winter Olympics Closing Careacory (49586) 11.30 Motor Racing Passion Magazine (42215) 12.00 Kick-Boding (40418) 1.00pm Wis the Astra and Marzopolo estallites.
 8.15em Electorali (1929, b/w): Altred Hischoock's debut table (70959789)
 7.50 Stand Up and Cheer (1934, b/w): Entertainment revue (4284469)
 9.05 The Maiding of Otdehorns and South Pacific: Documentary (600673)
 10.15 The Belle of the Nineties (1934, b/w): Standard New West (10051298)

SCREENSPORT

Starring Mare West (10551236)

12.00 America and Old Lace (1942, b/w):
Black cornedy about two elderly staters who
murder genitamen callers (18942852)
2.15pm Bradys on the Move (1999):
Adventure with the Brady Sunch (833944)
4.00 The Fantastic World of D.C. Collins
(1934): Gary Colemen is pursued by secret
agents (11210978)
5.50 Spotlight (89447)
6.15 Columbor Murder in Malibu (1990):
Starring Peter Fell. (47313708)
8.00 Jessics Lange: It's Only MakeBetieve (51437)
9.00 Pownsow Highway (1999): A Cheyenne Indian sets out to rescue his elster from
a New Mexico jail (15558976)
10.35 Shelfa (1899): A single mother
struggles to raise her daughter (9771895); Total
12.25sm Grim Praint Tales (1999): Four
eerie stories (7003780)

12.25sm Grim Prairie Tales (1989): Four earlie stories (7003780)

3.40 Night of the Generate (1967): A Nazi vivestigates a general's penchent for murdering prostituries (80574161). Ends at 6.00

THE COMEDY CHANNEL

• Via the Astra satellite.

• Via the Astra satellite.

10.50 Getting R with Denice Austin (233188) 11.25 Festion Fix (9872789)

10.55 Getting R with Denice Austin (233188) 11.25 Festion Fix (9872780)

12.50pm What's New (98577003) 12.56 Search for Tomonow (4054654) 1.20 Film: Server (8505) 5.30 Generancres (8470) 8.00

Here's Lucy (5383) 8.30 F Troop (9993) 7.00

McHale's Newy (8741) 7.30 The Addems Family (5147) 8.00 Doctor, Doctor (4789)

8.30 Ann Jišán (3296) 9.00 Hogan's Heroes (87302) 9.30 Here's Lucy (83147) 10.00

FM Stereo and MW. 4.00am Bruno Brooker. The Early Breakfast Show 6.00 Strong Mayon 9.00 Strong Buffes 12.30pm Newsbest 12.45 Jakki Brambles 3.00 Steve Wright in the Alternore 6.00 Mark Goodler's Maga Hits 6.30 News 32 7.30 Mark Goodler's Evening Seesion 9.00 The Man Exeks Sunshine Show 10.00 Nicky Campbell Goes into the Night 12.00-4.00am Bob Harris (FM only)

RAD10 2

FM Stereo. 4,00am Steve Muclein: The Early
Show 8.15 Pause for Thought 8.30 Brian
Hayes: Good Morning UKI 9.15 Pause for
Thought 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Glone Hurniford 3.30 Ed Stewert 5.05
Chris Stuari 7.00 The Lew Game 7.30 Festivals of Brisin: Hocktide Caroline Righton
parhopaties at a two-day intende up in Hungerford (4 of 9) 8.00 Jim Lloyd with Folk on Two 9.00
Migel Digita: The Organist Entertains 9.45 Stall We Dance: Alan Sykas presents the first of
eight programmes of strict tempo denous 10.30 The Jernesona 12.05em Jazz Parade 12.35
Alex Lester with hight Ricle 3.00-4.00 A Little Night Music

RADIO 5

News and sport on the hour until 7.00pm. 6.10pm Cricket World Cup. England v 2mbabwe from Albury 7.20 Denny Belear's Marming Edition 9.00 Schools 10.25 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 10, 40 Johnne Walker with The AM Atternative 12.30pm Education Malters 1.00 News Update 1.15 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (r) 1.30 BFBS Worldwide: Simon and the Squad 2.30 World Service Discovery; 3.05 Outlook; 3.30 Taxi; 3.45 Good Books; 4.05 Development 12 4.36 Five Aside 6.16 Desperate to Act (r) 6.30 Playing Beatle Bow The final part of Ruth Park's Australian adventure 7.10 Champion Sport, with Jon Champion Football Tottenham v Feyencord in the second gig of the Europeam Cup Winners' Cup; Liverpool v Genou in the Ueta Cup 10.10 Hit the North, incl 11.00 Sport 12.00-12.10pm News; Sport

News: Sport

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. 4.30am World Business Report 4.40 Traves and Weather 4.45 News and Press Review in German 5.00 Mergenmagezin 5.20 Tips für Touristen 5.24 News in German 5.30 Europe Today 6.00 News 6.09 News About Britain 6.15 The World Today 6.30 Londres Mater 7.00 Newsdesk 7.30 Development 92 8.00 News 8.09 Words of Faith 3.15 Sugar and Spice 8.30 Jazz Score 9.00 News 9.05 World Business Report 9.16 Country Style 9.30 it Made Cur World 9.45 Sports Roundup 10.01 Omeibus 10.30 Jezz for the Aeking 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Londres Mid 11.48 Mittagsmagazin 11.59 Weather Noon News 12.09pm News About Britain 12.15 News Ideas 12.35 Trees 12.45 Sports Roundup 1.00 Newshour 2.00 News 2.05 Outlook 2.30 Off the Shell America 2.45 A Month in the Country 3.00 News 3.15 Lend Observed 3.30 Frank Mair Goes Into . 4.00 News 4.08 News About Britain 4.15 BBC English 4.30 Heurs Aktuel 5.00 News and Business Report 5.15 The World Today 5.30 Landres Ser 8.14 BBC English 6.30 News and Business Report 8.30 Europe Tonight 9.00 Newshour 10.00 News 10.09 News About Britain 10.15 Sports International 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.00 News 10.05 World Business Report 11.15 From Cur Own Correspondent 11.30 Managuide 1.48 Bbc Book Choice 1.45 The Farming World 2.00 News 2.30 Sports Roundup 3.30 Assignment 4.00 News 4.15 The Farming World 2.00 News 4.20 News 4.15 The Farming World 2.00 News 2.30 Sports Roundup 3.30 Assignment 4.00 News 4.15 The Farming World 2.00 News 3.09 Words of Paith 3.18 Sports Roundup 3.30 Assignment 4.00 News 4.15 The Farming World 2.00 News 4.00 News 4.15 The Farming World 2.00

ITV VARIATIONS **ANGLIA**

As London except: 2.20-2.80 Gerdening Tips (46769147) 6.25-7.00 Angle News (997673) 12.30-1.00 Budo Sel (61797)

BORDER OUTLUET!

As London except: 2.15-3.15 The Silk Road (255985) 5.10-5.40 Home and Avitay (8458780) 6.00 Lookaround Wednesdey (215 8.30-7.00 Blocktusters (895) 12.30 Wolf (985722) 1.25 Donerina (8016008) 2.20 CinemAttractions (4624451) 2.45 Film: My General (808384) 4.45 Short Story Theatre (4941722) 5.10-5.30 Jobfinder (4035557)

CENTRAL As London except: 2.20 in the Northern Wilds (46769147) 2.50-3.15 The Young Doctors (6852031) 3.25-3.56 Take the High Road (6761470) 8.25-7.00 Central News (438614) 12.30 Night Heat (25635) 2.20 Piro: Subway in the Sky (5296546) 3.55 Stephen King'n: This is Horror 4.25 Affred Historical Presents (73769600) 4,50-6.30

As London except: 220-250 Coming of Age (46769147) 8.30-7.00 Granada Tonight (985) 12-30 Wolf (7953722) 1.25 Donahue (6016906) 2.20 ChemAtractions (4624451)

6.55am Weather; News Headines
7.00 Morning Concert: Bach
(Three-part Invention No 11 in
G minor, BWV 797); Poulenc
(Organ Concert); 7.30 News
7.35 Morning Concert (cont);
Handel (Concerto Grosso in G,
Op 3 No 3); Purcell (Chacony
in G minor); Shoststowich
(Plano Quintet, Op 57)
8.30 News
8.35 Composers of the Week:
Borodin. In the Steppes of
Central Asia (Gothenburg SO
under Neeme Jarvi); String
Quartet No 1 in A (Borodin
String Quartet; Polovisian
Dances, Prince Igor, Act 2
(Gothenburg SO and Chorus
under Jarvi)
9.35 Midweek Choice, with Susen
Shape. Gimenez (Intermezzo,
La Boda de Luis Alonso: ECO
under Enrique Garcia
Asensio; Yaughan Williams
(Jene Scroop, Her Lament for
Philip Sparrow: Philharmonia
Orchestra under Hillary Davan
Wetton, with Sarah Walker,
mezzo); Thomas B. Piffield

Wetton, with Sarah Walker, mezzo); Thomas B. Pitfield

mezzoj: Thomas B. Pitfield (Rondo Lirico: Leon Goossens, oboe, David Lloyd, pieno); Ginka (Polonaise and Weltz, A Lile for the Tsar: USSR SO under Svettenov); Mehler (Piano Quartet movement: Domus); Barber (Knoxville — Summer of 1915: Orchestra of St Luke's under David

Zinman, with Dawn Upshaw, soprano); Rachmaninov (Cell Sonata in G minor, Op 19:

Paul Torteller, cello, Aldo Ciccolini, plano); Sullivan, an Stanford Robinson (Savoy Dances; Pro Arte Orchestra

under Stanford Robinson) Ulater Orchestra under Yan Pascal Torteller performs

Berlioz (Romeo and Juliet, Love Scane): Debussy (La Mer): Jongen (Symphonia

Concertants for organ and orchestra: Gillian Weir) (r)

1.00pm News

1.05 Concert Hall: Leland Chen, violin, Clare MucFarlane, viola, Caroline Dearnley, cello, Julius Deake, risen, perform

Caroline Deamley, cello, Juliu
Drake, piano, perform
Schumern (Adegio and
Allegro, Op 70); Flavel
(Tzigene); Schumenn (Plano
Quartet in E flat, Op 47)
2.00 Record Review (r)
3.10 Vintage Years: Lawrence
Collingwood conducts Rimsky
Korsakov (Dance of the

COMPILED BY PETER DEAR AND GILLIAN MAXEY
TY CHOICE PETER WAYMARK/RADIO CHOICE PETER DAVALLE

2.45 Film: My General (809384) 4.45 Short Story Theatre (49411722) 5.10-5.30 Joblinder (4035567) HTV WEST

As London except: 1,50-2,30 The Young Doctors (98657081) 3,25-3,56 A Country Practice (8761470) 5,10-5,40 Home and Away (8458760) 6,00 HTV News (215) 6,30-7.00 Blockbu **HTV WALES** As HTV West except: 8.00 Wales at Six

TSW As London except: 3.23-3.55 Home and Away (8779499) 5.10-5.40 Take the High Road (94559760) 6.00 TSW Today (215) 6.30-7.00 Blookhusten (985) 12.30 Wolf (7953722) 1.25 Donshus (9016909) 2.20 ChemAtractics (482445) 2.45 Film: My General (809384) 4.45 Short Slory Theatre (49411722) 5.10-5.30 Jobfinder (4035967)

TVS 7.00 880

As London except: 1.50-2.20 The Young
Doctors (98657031) 3.25-3.55 Sons and
Daughters (8761470) 5.10-5.40 Home and
Away (8468780) 6.00 Coast to Coast (215)
6.30-7.00 Bloodbusters (895) 12.30-1.00 in
SAC

Tumblers, The Snow-Maiden: Philharmonia Orchestra); Wagner (Du bist der Lenz, Die Walktre: London SO, with Göta Ljundberg, soprano, Watter Widdop, tenor); Saint-Sains (Minuer, Cello Concerto No 1: Guilharmina Suggia, collo); Mussongsky (Trapak, Songs and Dances of Death: Feodor Challapin, bass); Zeller (Nightingale Song, Der Vogelhändler; Elisabeth Schunenn, soprano); Elgar (Triumphai March, Caractacus: London SO); Verdi (Miserere, Il Trovatore: Saciler's Wells Chorus and Orchestra, with

Chorus and Orchestra, with Joan Cross, soprano, Webster Booth, tenor); Elgar (Bavarian Dancs No 1: London SO)

Ceremonial music recorded at the 1991 festival of Dasain at

4.00 Choral Evensong: Live from the National Cathedral of St Patrick in Dublin 5.00 Festival of the Goddess:

7.05 Third Ear: David Roper chairs a discussion on elitism and populism in the public library

system 7.30 Towards Bach: Ls Petite

7-30 Towards Bach: La Petite
Bande under Kuijken performs
Lufy (Suite from Roland);
Bach (Orchestral Suite No 2 in
B minor, BWY 1067); George
Muffat (Suite, Leets Poesis in
G); Bach (Orchestral Suite No
4 in D, BWY 1069) (r)
8.50 Debut: The planist Reymond
Clarke plays Szymanowski
(Sonets No 3, Op 36);
Parufink (Pentasonalia)

Panufnik (Pentasonals) Blaze of the Riging Sun: The progress of Japanese science

first of two programmes, Nigel North, chitarrone, plays toccatas, arias and dances

toccatas, anas and cances from the 1623 and 1639 collections 11.30 News 11.35-12.35am Composers of the Weet: Honegger (r) 1.00-2.25 Night School (except in Scotland) (as Fladio 5 at 9am)

progress of Japanese science and technology (r) 10.10 Roussell (Deux poèmes chinois, Op 47; Two Songs, Op 50; Sonatine; Two Songs, Op 20; Le bachellar de Salamanque; Saratiande Odes anacreontiques Opp 31 and 32; Three Plano Pieces, Op 49)

Shaktapur in Nepal 5.30 Mainly for Pleasure 7.00 News

TYNE TEES Starte: 6.00 C4 Delty (3396437) 9.25
Yapolion (54783147) 12.00 The Parlament As London except: 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (8458760) 6.00 Northern Life (215) (54554296) 12.40 Slot Methylin (6171321)

1.00 Countdown (11944) 1.30 Business Capter (1953722) 1.25 Donahus (8016906) 2.20 ChemAttractions (4824451) 2.45 Film: My General (808364) 4.45 Short Story Theetre (49411722) 5.10-5.30 Jobilinder (4035567) ULSTER

As London except: 1.50 Sons and Deugiber (4956573) 2.20 Film: Loughter in Paraclase (4863654) 4.25 Stot 23 (4100470) 5.00 Short Stories (9031) 5.30 Brookside (944) 6.00 Newyddion (456789) 6.10 Heno (642586) 7.00 Potol (456789) 6.10 Heno (642586) 7.00 Potol (456789) 6.10 Heno (642586) 10.40 Extraordinery (8458760) 6.00 Six Tonight (215) 6.30-7.00 Bookside (944) 6.00 Newyddion (456789) 6.00 Stot Storieth (215) 6.30-7.00 Bookside (944) 6.00 Newyddion (456789) 5.10-5.40 Home and Avery (8458760) 6.00 Six Tonight (215) 6.30-7.00 Bookside (944) 6.00 Newyddion (521788) 8.50 Film: Evil in Clear Pitter (62669) 11.40 The Six Donahus (8016906) 2.20 ChemAttractions (62669) 11.40 The Six Donahus (8016906) 2.20 ChemAttractions (626691) 2.45 Film: My General (603864) 4.25 Stort Story Theetre (693854) 1.20 Oweddions (626691) 2.45 Film: My General (603864) 4.25 Stort Story Theetre (693854) 1.20 Oweddions (626691) 2.45 Film: My General (603864) 4.25 Stort Story Theetre (693854) 1.20 Oweddions (626690) 2.20 ChemAttractions (626691) 2.45 Film: My General (603864) 4.25 Stort Story Theetre (693854)

RADIO 4

(s) Stereo on FM
5.55am Shipping Forecast 6.00
News Briefing, Incl 6.03
Weather 6.10 Ferming Today
6.25 Prayer for the Day (s)
6.30 Today, Incl 6.30, 7.00,
7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News 6.55,
7.55 Weather 7.45 Thought
for the Day 8.40 Yesterday in
Parliament 8.58 Weather
9.00 News

9.00 News 9.05 Election Call: 071-799 5000. Voters are invited to ring Alan Berith, Liberal Democrat spokesman on the economy 18.00-10.30am News; The Trade Rag (FM only): The Dentist, Nick Baker looks at the fifth of six personners and

six newspapers and magazines serving different trades or professions (s)

10.00 Delty Service (LW only)

10.15 The Biblie (LW only)

Jeremiah. Read by Alan Bates (4 of 7)

(4 of 7)
10.30 Woman's Hour discusses ethnic minorities and the environmental movement, incl
11.00 News
11.30 Gardeners' Question Time, Members of the Drotwich Spa
District Horticultural Society in Worcestershire put their

Worcestershire put their queries to the experts (r)

12.00 News; You and Yours, with Margaret Collins

12.25pm Lord Edgware Dies:
Agatha Christie's novel in a five-part dramatisation by Michael Bekewell. With John Moffett as Hercule Poirot (s)

1.00 The World at One

Monatt as necuse rootot (s)
1.00 The World at One
1.40 The Archers (r) 1.55 Shipping
2.00 News; My Uncle Freddie.
The last of Alex Ferguson's

The last of Alex Ferguson's trilogy (s)

2.47 The Black Heart: Paul Hyland continues his journey up the river Congo into Joseph Conrad s Heart of Darkness (2 of 4) (r) 3.00 File on 4 (r)

3.42 Profile: A racto portrait of Nicholas Kenyon, controller of Radio 3 4.00 News

4.05 Kaledosope reviews the separations of th

Hading 3 4.00 News
Kaledoscope reviews the
week's film releases, including
Shining Through and Bugsy:
listens to asolise harps; and
talks to Chris Frayling about
his biography of Clirt
Eastwood (s)
Short Short A Pichica of Van

4.45 Short Story: A Picture of You,

by Daphne Glazer 5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kt-iz/295m; 1089kt-iz/275m; FM-97.6-99.8. Radio 2: FM-88-90.2. Radio 3: FM-90.2-92.4. Radio 4: 198kt-iz/1515m; FM-92.4-94.6. Radio 5: 693kt-iz/433m; 909kt-iz/330m. LBC: 1152kt-iz/261m; FM-97.3. Capital: 1548kt-iz/194m; FM-95.8. GLR: 1458kt-iz/206m; FM-94.9; World Service: MW

etractions RTE 1 1 (609361) STE 1 22) 5

(46244S1) 2.45 Film: My General (509364)
4.45 Short Story Theatre (46411722) 5.10
5.30 Jobindor (403557)

YORKSHIRE
As London except: 5.10-5.40 Home and Assay (455749) 6.00 Calendor (215) 6.30
7.00 Slockbusters (895) 12.30 Fire: Eacape From DS-3 (142161) 2.10 American Geography 1.40 Earth Journel (3650383) 7.00 Slockbusters (895) 12.30 Fire: Eacape From DS-3 (142161) 2.10 American Geography 4.00 News (8558050) 6.00 Gloved by Hollywood Chronicles (8233364) 3.00 Culz Night (62529) 3.30

Music Box (15946) 4.30-5.30 Jobindor (31529)

Sarts: 11.45 The Story of Irish Expression (55711925) 12.10 Sten Lauret (32299394) 1.20 Firencial (767483) 1.00 News (657889) 1.10 News (657889) 1.20 News (100840 by Hollywood Chronicles (685031) 8.00 The Angelias (1388766) 6.01 Skr. Che (2713234) 7.00 No 1 (2227577) 7.30 Who's the Boss? (8798573) 8.00 Look Hore Calendor (14773578) 9.30 Today Togathon (54783147) 12.00 The Parliament Programme (23129) 12.30 Newyddon (54654296) 12.40 Slot Meithrin (617321) (6859384) 12.25 Closs.

6.00 Stx O'Clock News 6.30 Counterpoint (s) (r) 7.00 News 7.05 The Archers 7.20 Costing the Earth (FM only)

7.45-8.00 Thorn in Our Flesh (FM)
only): A series of talks for
Lent. Dr Andrew Coyle
describes a prison governor's
reaction to the teaching of
less of Next, eath (a)

Jesus of Nazureth (s)
7.20 Woman's Hour (LW only) (r)
8.30 Medicine Now (r)
8.30 Immortal Diamonds: The End of All Our Exploring. Rosemary Hartill examines the resultionship between God and resultines the resultines of the poet T.S. Eliot's Four Chartets (s)

9.00 in Business: Bumping Along the Bottom

CHOICE: In Business

returns with an investigation that should more accurately be called Out of Business for it is about recession-hit firms It is about recession-hit firms that have gone to the wall. We hear tales of woe that will affect the filmitest of hearts. At one stage, Peter Day's interrogation is briefly suspended while a write sheds tears. Not all is gloom and doom, however. There is the kitchen and-hattmom doom, however. There is kitchen and bathroom company that thrives by

flourishes thratter tim that flourishes thanks to strict cash control. Bankers emerge as the principal villains of the piece. A hopeful sign is that in Durham, they are going back to school lo school

programme about traditional ways of life that may soon be coming to an end. When

2.7

OUT EV

ignoring the recession, and the office furniture firm that

9.30 Kaleidescope (a) (r)
9.45 The Financial World Tonight
(a) 9.59 Weather
10.00 The World Tonight (s)
10.45 A Book at Bedtime: The
Brown Wallet, by Stacey
Aumonier (final part)
11.00 End of a Line: Coracle
Fishermen. The final
programme about traditional

coming to an end, When seven stars shine at right, the coracle men of Camarthen draw lots and set off for a night's fishing, with coracle boats on their backs (r) 11.30 Today in Parliament 12.00-12.43am News, Incl 12.27 Weather 12.33 Shipping 12.43 World Service (LW only)

leader insult isions C